PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

General Christian Missionary Convention,

—THE—

Foreign Christian Missionary Society,

AND THE

NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION,

HELD IN ST. LOUIS, MO.

October 25-30, 1877.

CINCINNATI:

CHASE & HALL, PUBLISHERS, 180 ELM STREET,

1877.

Officers of the Convention,

FOR 1877-8.

PRESIDENT.

A. I. HOBBS, Bloomington, Ills.

VICE PRESIDENTS,

R. GRAHAM, L. B. WILKES, O. A. BURGESS.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,

F. M. GREEN.

RECORDING SECRETARIES,

N. S. HAYNES, J. W. MOUNTJOY, GEO. DARSIE.

TREASURER,

JAMES LESLIE.

AUDITOR,

B. W. WASSON.

BOARD OF MANAGERS,

R. M. BISHOP, JAMES CHALLEN,
F. M. GREEN, ISAAC ERRETT,
JAMES LESLIE. W. S. DICKINSON,
D. W. CHASE, W. H. LAPE.
M. H. SLOSSON.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

ISAAC ERRETT, Presideet. M. H. SLOSSON,
JAMES LESLIE, D. W. CHASE,
W. S. DICKINSON.

STATE EVANGELISTS.

C. S. Lucas, Lynchburg, Virginia.
A. B. Chamberlain, Auburn, New York.
James Darsie, Centre College, Pennsylvania.
A. E. Myers, West Liberty, West Virginia.
R. Moffett, Cleveland, Ohio.
J. S. Shouse, Midway, Kentucky.
T. P. Sutton, Butler, Indiana.
Elias Sias, Dowagiac, Michigan.
S. M. Conner, Girard, Illinois.
W. T. Martin, Rock Springs, Wisconsin.
E. T. C. Bennett, Mankato, Minnesota.
R. C. Barrow, Tecumseh, Nebraska,
Pardee Butler, Farmington, Kansas.
J. L. Burns, Whitaker's, North Carolina.

GENERAL

CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION.

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY.

FIRST SESSION—THURSDAY, OCT. 25, 1877, 2 P. M.

The General Convention assembled at the above hour in the Central Christian Church, Twenty-third Street and Washington Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri; was called to order by A. I. Hobbs, of Illinois, Vice President, who opened the devotional exercises by reading the 2d Psalm, after which the Convention was led in prayer by W. T. Moore, of Ohio.

After singing "All hail the power of Jesus' name," etc., on motion, Committees on Order of Business, and Credentials, were ordered as follows:—

Order of Business—Enos Campbell, Missouri; A. I. Hobbs, Illinois; and W. A. Belding, New York.

Credentials—N. S. Haynes, Illinois; J. C. Tully, Indiana; and J. H. Matthews, Missouri.

The enrollment resulted as follows:—

MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION.

LIFE DIRECTORS.

West Virginia—W. K. Pendleton.
Ohio—R. M. Bishop, Mrs. R. M. Bishop, James Leslie, W. T. Moore.
New York—W. A. Belding.

LIFE MEMBERS.

Missouri—J. J. Errett, Alex. Proctor, Mrs. S. F. Easton, Dr. W. H. Hopson, Mrs. John G. Allen, Mrs. W. H. Hopson.
Ohio—H. M. Hickok, D. W. Chase.
Kentucky—Thomas Munnell.

DELEGATES FROM STATES.

Illinois—A. I. Hobbs, J. W. Allen, S. M. Conner, J. C. Reynolds, J. J. Shelton, N. S. Haynes, Ira J. Chase, J. S. Smith, G. L. Brokaw.

Missouri—J. H. Hardin, T. P. Haley, J. W. Mouser, L. B. Wilkes, Jno. A. Brookes, G. W. Longan, J. A. Berry, J. K. Rodgers, J. H. Duncan, Enos Campbell, John W. Ellis, W. H. Gardiner, J. D. Orr, Delegate from the colored missions of the State.

Minnesota—J. Lagrange.

Indiana—Mrs. L. Jameson, A. M. Atkinson, Thos. J. Clark, James W. Conner, J. M. Telford, J. C. Tulley, Z. T. Sweeney, S. J. Tomlinson.

Ohio—Joseph F. Wright, F. M. Green, Isaac Errett, R. M. Bishop, D. W. Chase, M. D. Todd, H. M. Hickok.

Iowa—F. M. Kirkham, F. M. Drake, D. R. Lucas.

Michigan—Elias Sias.

Kansas—A. D. Goodwin.

Pennsylvania—H. B. Goe.

New York—W. A. Belding, O. A. Bartholomew, D. R. VanBuskirk.

Colorado—J. G. Waggoner.

West Virginia—W. K. Pendleton.

Kentucky—Prof. J. W. McGarvey.

Texas—T. W. Caskey, C. Kendrick.

VISITORS.

Ohio—Prof. Jules De Launey and wife, Mrs. E. B. Moss, Charles L. Cline and wife, R. G. White.

Indiana—Mrs. S. A. Morris, Mrs. P. H. Jameson, Mrs. N. E. Atkinson, Mrs. S. Frazier, Mrs. D. B. M. Stears, Mrs. Fleckner, Mrs. A. J. Tarleton, Miss Maria Cole, Mrs. E. N. Hinman, Josie E. Mitchell, J. L. Griffin, Z. T. Sweeney, Mrs. Wm. Wallace.

Illinois—Mrs. W. B. Smith, Miss E. J. Dickinson, J. D. Metcalf, G. W. Mapes, Miss Seddie Neal, Miss Amy Guy, Mrs. E. M. Mapes, A. C. Foster, P. D. Vermillion, L. P. Matthews, J. L. Richardson, D. W. Wilson, J. S. Smith, J. E. Turner, R. Thompson and wife, H. A. Van Densen, W. F. Eastman, J. H. Wright, J. and D. Husband, J. A. Williams, Miss Mattie Walker, Miss Sallie Chambers, John Friend, W. C. Kenner, R. C. McKever, J. T. Toof, E. B. Stevens, John Tait, W. H. Embry, R. J. Whitley, J. E. Masters.

Tennessee—J. M. Trible.

Iowa—Mrs. Alfred Sanders, Miss Millie Drake, Mrs. H. J. Kirkham, Mrs. James E. Gaston.

Missouri—Mrs. Mary E. Matthews, Mrs. R. E. Guy, E. B. Cake, Miss Aurora Oakes, John M. Guy, John W. Martin, Albert Myles, Mrs. B. Guy, Mrs. W. A. Edmonds, Mrs. R. Errett, Mrs. M. Jeans, Miss Jeanneatte Donan, Mrs. W. H. Wood, Jacob Hugley, Dr. W. A. Edmonds, J. H. Hickman, Belle M. Hugley, Jefferson Glascock, Mary J. Hays, Wm. Christian, E. B. Challener, Mrs. Brindle, Mary A. Lester, E. C. Brown, Samuel W. Warren, Miss Lizzie Warren, David Vaughan, W. O. Thomas, D. T. Alger, J. H. Garrison, James Randall, R. N. Davis and wife, W. M. Featherston, J. H. Jameson, B. P. Wiggo, J. H. Matthews, Joseph Steele, Frank W. Allen, Geo. S. Bryant, Wm. E. Lenoir, Mrs. Sallie Campbell, C. B. Edgar, Mrs. John A. Brooks., Mrs. Sarah Warren.

Pennsylvania—Mrs. Joseph King, Miss Rose Goe, Miss Kate Goe, Mrs. J. H. Postlethwaite.

Kentucky—Mrs. J. W. McGarvey, A. H. Carter, G. W. Scanlin.

Nebraska—Levi Byerly.

The Committee on Order of Business made a partial report as follows:—

1. Enrollment of Delegates.

2. Report of Board, and its reference to appropriate committees.

3. Short speeches of five minutes of reports from the field.

4. Adjourn at 5 P. M.

Evening Session.—1. Devotional evercises from 7 to 7.30.

2. President's Address.

3. Adjournment.

After the enrollment was completed, the Annual Report of the Board of Managers was presented by the Corresponding Secretary, Thomas Munnell, of Kentucky.

REPORT OF THE BOARD.

BRETHREN: During the year now closing we have raised and expended for *missionary* purposes, in all the States, the sum of $45,410.90, We have received in bequests for future missionary work, since our last General Convention, the handsome sum of $51,500, partly for our General treasury, and part for the Indiana State treasury. The Board of Commissioners have also completed, as connected with our Southern missionary work, and growing dirently out of it, the sum of $11,000, subscribed as stock in Southern Christian Institute, for the education chiefly of colored teachers and preachers of the Gospel for that race. The bequest made for missionary work in Indiana is the same as that referred to as prospective in our last year's report, which, although not directed by the benevolent giver to our General Treasurer, will serve a purpose perhaps equally important where it finally went. We rejoice in this, and again remind our brethren generally of the propriety of their leaving something in their wills, if they can not sooner spare it, that when they "die in the Lord," their blessed works may follow them. The above named sums tabulated will stand thus:—

For missionary work the past year, in cash,....	$45,410 90
do do in bequests to Gen. Con.	21,500 00
do do do to Indiana...	30.000 00
For Southern Christian Institute Stock.....	11,000 00
Total.....	$107,910 90

It is easy to trace all this to our missionary organization, for without it there could have been no bequests, and would have been no Southern missionary work and success to call forth the effort for the Southern college. The number added to the church, during the year, is 3786.

These results, though not all we should have done, either in money or additions, are surely worth striving for, even if they were the only results that might be enumerated.

The sums total of moneys expended and bequeathed, and of additions to the church, since our present organization in 1869, are as follows:—

Additions by missionary work alone		43,123
Money expended for all missionary uses		$471,789 73
Bequests to the General Convention	$43,000	
do Indiana Convention	30,000	
do Ohio Convention	12,000	
Endowment Fund for Illinois	744	
Whole amount for investment		$85,744 00

Only a small part of this—about $11,000—has been as yet paid in, but in due time we may expect the benevolent purposes of these liberal and devoted brethren and sisters will be to a great extent realized in the conversion of sinners to the Lord Jesus Christ. A moderate per cent. of such donations fail of their object.

The above estimates do not include the funds nor additions of either the Woman's Board of Missions or the Foreign Board, or any moneys that may have been expended in our organized Sunday school work. These will all be ably presented at the proper times by those having these interests specially in their charge.

The State organizations this year have not worked with sufficient regularity or sameness to enable us to tabulate the results under any single form. A succinct statement of the work and condition of each is therefore briefly made out as follows:—

Ohio, as usual, leads off with the first State Convention of the year, with more regularity and with less of the intermittent and spasmodic than any other State. They report—

Number of days' service	2,768
do sermons preached	1,665
do baptisms	374
do other accessions	134
Total accessions	508
do churches assisted	31
do new points visited	12
do churches organized	6
do pastors aided	5
do young men being educated	4
do dollars reported	$10,123.63

A small portion of this amount was for buildings at mission points. Ohio is trying to direct attention still more and more, like most other States, to the wants of our vacant churches.

Kentucky, although in some sense withdrawn (only temporarily, it is hoped) from the General Convention, because they could not pay any dividends, ought nevertheless to be ranked as usual among the best missionary States, and their work the past year counted in the sum total of what our brotherhood as a whole are doing. Besides, as to dividends, they are no more delinquent than most other States have been and still are, and we need not for that reason leave them unrepresented in this report.

Counting all the mony raised, as per district and State reports, for preaching, and about $5,000 raised by Evangelists for meeting houses in needy places, Kentucky's report stands—

Money raised and expended	$16,248 55
Additions	952

Fifteen Evangelists were in the employ of the Board, besides the Sunday-school Evangelist, who worked successfully all the year round.

Michigan, with 59 churches, and about 2,800 members, reported in money for missions, $434.85; additions, 153.

Their State Evangelist was in the field but a small part of the time, but with the good management of which he is quite capable, their prospects are much better. A strenuous effort is to be made the current year, to secure a house of worship in Grand Rapids, the second city of the State.

Missouri.—Aggregating the reports of the State and district boards, Missouri shows about $3,003; and additions about 312.

The State Convention was marked by a deep concern for their feeble congregations, and by an emphatic determination on the part of the church leaders to raise means henceforth for future work.

Illinois.—This State had no Evangelist in the field, except for a few months, and reports only $1,681.00; with additions about 40. Tazwell county raised $500 of this, and established a church in Pekin.

The most noticeable and promising feature in the outlook for Illinois, is the banding together of a number of their most earnest Preachers and Elders, who have mutually agreed among themselves to support the State and General missionary treasuries by raising money personally among the members of their respective congregations. The same has been done in Indiana and Michigan. May much good result.

Indiana had a State Evangelist but a few weeks. Bro. Carpenter was obliged to leave the field because the *home ministry* neglected to support his family. The same was true in Illinois, Iowa, and most other States where little or no work has been done.. The effort to get along without said officer has been made in different States, and made repeatedly, but always with the same disastrous results. This State, which has been reporting from $20,000 to $27,000 per year, with the proper manager in the field, has no report this year they think worth while to make.

West Virginia has done but little in State work for several years, but is doing something in the districts, in which 300 additions were gained. The recent State Convention was quite enjoyable, and inspired more confidence for the future. Upon the whole, the cause is growing in that State.

Nebraska, with her 62 churches and 4,000 members, still works courageously on, supporting in part the energetic R. C. Barrow as the State Evangelist. He reports 237 discourses, 148 additions, $335.96 missionary funds, and for all church purposes during the year $5,305.96.

Virginia has been at work in earnest the past year. The missionary work proper embraces the labors of nine Evangelists, who preached 1,050 sermons, baptized 650, and were paid $4551. Incidental to this work, to a considerable extent, is the work of building meeting houses to the amount of over $11,000. And yet, as in the other States, only a small part of the members were active in this work. Besides this missionary work, 55 local preachers are supplying 104 churches, have preached 4,600 sermons, and baptized 512 converts.

Iowa has had the services of a State Evangelist but a small part of the time the past year, and makes no report. The brethren have been and still are struggling to save the Burlington meeting house. J. K. Cornell is their leader in the field this year, and has set out in hope and determination to pay for the house in Burlington, and to thoroughly revive the work in the State.

New York. This State has kept up their regular organization, and raised during the past year $1,500. Additions not reported. They have 38 churches, 21 of which have weekly preaching.

Pennsylvania has done well the past year, considering their strength and their numbers. They have raised and expended $2,000 in cash, besides $500 donated by the State Evangelist, James Darsie, in time

and labor. Their baptisms number 500. They organized six new churches, and built three new meeting houses, under the auspices of the State Board, and are pushing on to other conquests.

The States of *Kansas*, *Minnesota*, and *Wisconsin*, have each had encouraging Conventions, and have each elected State Evangelists, and propose to wake up to earnest effort for the year to come.

The money and additions obtained by labors under the direction of the General Board are as follows:—

Proceeds of Hymn Book Fund	$1,300 00	
Cash Collections by Corresponding Secretary	2,674 91	
Raised by influence and effort of Corresponding Secretary for weak Churches	1,450 00	
Raised by Rushville Sisters for Mississippi Mission	108 00	
Total	$5,532 91	
Additions in Alabama Mission	172	
do Mississippi Mission	21	
do weak Churches supplied	19	
do by Corresponding Secretary	11	
Total		223

It should be remembered that wherever the States have not sustained State Evangelists in the field, little or nothing has been done, as in West Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa; while Virginia, New York, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan and Nebraska, have reported the great bulk of what has been done, although they represent but little over half the Christian population of the first named States; and such has uniformly been the result when said field officers have not been sent out.

The fund reported by the General Board shows that, apart from the Hymn Book Fund, the amount raised in various ways, and for different purposes, by the Corresponding Secretary, is $4,200. This is what he has raised from old pledges and by personal effort in the field, while discharging the various other duties of his office, chiefly during the fore part of the year, no dividends having been received from any of the States except a few dollars from Illinois.

But the agency system of securing church co-operation has long since been abandoned by religious people. Societies consisting of individual memberships may send out agents with more success, but neither calls in the papers or in circulars for collections, nor traveling agents, can be used with much profit any more, especially in gathering small amounts. Hence during last Spring, when the stringency of money matters became so embarrassing as to render it unprofitable to continue soliciting at all personally, the Secretary turned attention for a while to the revival of weak and fallen churches, as the best thing to do; and as a sample of what might be done in this direction, if worked at persistently, succeeded in five or six weeks in inducing eight of them to raise a support for a minister, each a part of the time. Four laborers were secured for them, who the last six months have established six Sunday Schools, added twenty to the churches, revived the prayer meetings, and labored much from house to house among the people. One of the great purposes of our organization for the near future ought to be to raise means from the stronger churches to send Evangelists out to do just such a work as this in most all the States. This is undeniably the most important missionary work before us at present. Ten thousand dollars distributed among the State Boards for the support of Evangelists in such work, at no greater rate

of success than that above stated, would accomplish an inconceivable amount of good. But allowing the success to be, upon the whole, one-third less, said amount of money, in one year, would result in locating 166 preachers, with 332 destitute churches, for whom at only $600 each the churches would pay about $100,000, and at a low estimate the ministers would add 4,000 to the church, establish 150 Sunday Schools and make, if they are but moderately industrious men, about 2,500 religious visits.

But who are responsible for raising the $10,000? The *ministry* is responsible—the preachers, elders and deacons. If 200 of them would covenant together to raise $50 each the work would be done.

With these facts before us it was thought best for the Secretary, the last few months, to suspend his personal labors among weak churches and to see as many of said ministry as possible, both privately and in their Ministerial Associations, and in Missionary and Sunday School Conventions, in order to lay a broader basis for such work.

Five such meetings were attended at their regular appointments, and six others called—eleven in all—which has resulted in a resolution on the part of the Ministerial Associations in three States—Michigan, Indiana and Illinois—to make it part of their business and a condition of membership in their Associations to raise money for the State and General Missionary treasuries in their States respectively. They also pledge themselves to each other to report the money and pledges to each annual Association for the *following* year, so the Boards may know what to depend on. They also resolved to take measures to increase the number of their members, in the hope of uniting all earnest preachers and elders in this work of raising missionary funds. These two facts—our incipient success in locating preachers, as stated above, and the movements of the Associations—are reported not only as a part of the work done the past year, but as efforts to put gates ajar to long vistas of future usefulness. They are submitted to your careful consideration, suggesting that this question of ministerial responsibility should be settled soon and settled finally, while the question of *how* they may best combine to mutually carry out the obligation, may be left to the brethren of each State to decide for themselves. Shall your Board and Secretary make a special effort the coming year to get the home ministry to decide this question, yea or nay? Or shall we, as heretofore, depend on basket collections and agents, and have our Evangelists try to raise their own salaries in the field as they go? We desire instruction.

In February last we, in co-operation with the State Board of Pennsylvania, undertook a mission in Harrisburg, capital of that State, which seemed to present extraordinary inducements for a vigorous effort. This mission we together sustained for six months, supporting the zealous Dr. Kirkpatrick and family, but owing to the influence of unworthy preachers who joined us there, the efforts of Dr. Kirkpatrick soon became so much embarrassed and finally so weakened that it was thought best to discontinue the mission for the present. Three preachers had united with us, two places of regular preaching had been established, a membership of 35 had been received, with two Sunday Schools in good condition; but for the above reasons, and reasons concomitant not necessary to detail, the work was suspended.

For our missions among the freedmen we have been able to do but little this year. But, though only small amounts have been raised for Brothers Brooks, Braboy and Woods, in Alabama and Mississippi, their labors have been greatly blessed in the addition of 193 to their churches. They are building meeting houses also, as their limited

resources will permit. They are good and true men, and both need and deserve more aid in their difficult field. Brother Woods, colored Evangelist in Mississippi, is supported chiefly by a few zealous and enterprising sisters in Rushville, Indiana. He and others are striving to hold together the twenty-five churches we organized there several years ago through the labors of Woods and Owen. He has added 21 to the church the past year, besides laboring as Evangelist generally among his people. He needs and deserves more support.

The Convention will remember that Brother Bacon, of Painesville, Ohio, at his death, bequeathed to you $507.36, directing in his will that the interest thereof for ten years should be spent for the spread of the Gospel in Neosto County, Kansas. The interest of the first year, $31,64, was so spent last fall, in holding a protracted meeting by Brother Matthews, which resulted in much good—in the addition of five to the congregation, and the starting of regular preaching one-fourth of the time. Another meeting has just been held, based on the proceeds of the second year's interest. From this we have not heard the particulars, but it will appear in due time.

You will also remember that, growing out of our missionary success a few years ago in Mississippi, we set up a movement to establish a Bible School in that State, chiefly for the preparation of colored teachers and preachers for that race. A charter was obtained, a Board of Commissioners appointed, with O. A. Burgess, Chairman, and Thomas Munnell, Corresponding Secretary. The charter requires that $10,000 be subscribed in stock, satisfactory to the Board, before we can organize and elect Trustees. Of these $10.000 stock, Brother Owen solicited one thousand, the Corresponding Secretary two thousand, and Dr. Belding, during the past year, has carried the stack subscriptions and other assets of the institution to something over twelve thousand. We expect soon to have the *stock* assets fully up to the required $10,000, and then organize by appointing Trustees, and proceed, as soon as practicable, to found the institution.

A word about the Louisville Bible School. On account of the unsuitable arrangements for it in the city, and our inability to raise a few thousand dollars to put it into proper condition, we were compelled last fall to suspend it for a season. This was made the more necessary because about $1,500 that were pledged for its support proved to be uncollectible. This not only cut off the supplies we had depended on for the past year, but left us about $700 in debt. Upon this debt we have been paying some, but a large part of it remains yet unpaid. As we have good reasons for making a special effort this year for the Mississippi Institute it was thought best to complete that work before undertaking to re-establish the Louisville School upon a better financial basis. This we may be able to begin before long.

In conclusion, we call the attention of the Convention to facts of marked significance as connected with our present movement:

1. Our general organization has been much more of a success than many suppose. We have so far failed to work *it*, but it has developed but few weaknesses indeed. The failures have been due to the inefficiency of its friends, more than to anything else. Poor a chance as it has had it has doubled the results of any other equal number of years of our work.

2. The great heart of the brotherhood, instead of surrendering the doctrine of missionary co-operation, is stronger than ever in its favor. The only regret is, not that we ever began, but that we have not done more; no regrets over the plan, but that we have not worked the plan.

3. The religious sentiment of all true workers in the church never

was so healthy as it is to-day, as to the wants of our vacant churches. In most of the recent State Conventions, especially in Missouri, this question received a degree of attention unknown before in the history of the church. This is a direct and healthy result of our organization.

4. For several years the Secretary has been urging and holding County Conferences of all the officers that would attend, to consider the wants of their respective counties, aud we are glad to see here and there in nearly all the States such Conferences are now being held. This will bring the church leaders to consider every interest of the cause in their own regions, break up church isolation, and give the strong some interest in the weak.

5. But the chief question, and almost the only one for this Convention to consider, seems to us to be whether the home ministry both can and will raise our missionary money. This Scriptural duty of theirs they have never yet reached to any considerable extent. Our success is certain, wherever we do the work; we can have the work done, if we can support our Evangelists. We can support our Evangelists if the preachers and elders will faithfully and persistently try to raise the means, and *in no other way.* To the church leaders we must look, and all history shows how useless it is to look to any others. This is God's own plan, as clearly shown in the New Testament, and he will bless us in no other and never has. This is generally admitted by all the intelligent; it has been repeated in our reports year after year. The ministry of Protestants generally do a large work in this way, and why not ours? There is nothing very discouraging in our future, but this one thing—the inertness, inefficiency and apparent indisposition of our home ministry to work in this matter as they ought. If this can be overcome our success will be great, our Conventions joyful, and the work of the Lord prosperous in our hands.

It may seem very strange and anomalous that many of our very best ministers, who mourn over our deficiencies, are here to-day without having done their duties, the past year, to have things in better shape, and expect to go home and repeat their past inefficiency, and then attend the next Convention to regret our small results, and so on year after year.

We recommend that this Convention settle the question, so far as all the preachers and elders present are concerned, whether we are to look to them for anything better in the future. Whether a nucleus shall be formed here that will return to their respective States and rouse the ministry as far as possible to this work. Other recommendations we could make, but it would be useless until this one is settled. The grandest possibilities are ahead of us. We have a mighty Saviour to help us, a glorious Gospel to proclaim, immortal souls to save, and an account to give to Him "who is ready to judge the quick and the dead."

Finally we would suggest a bare possibility as to the cause of our not doing more missionary work. Perhaps we are not worthy to do missionary work. Possibly we are not, as ministers, fully consecrated to God. The trouble may lie deeper than we think. We may be depending too much upon ourselves. We are not strong because we are not weak. The Apostles considered it a high attainment to be "worthy to suffer" for Christ's sake. The better one is prepared to suffer with Him, the more is he like Him and the more worthy. The Apostles had to bear "about in their bodies the dying of the Lord Jesus" in order "that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest" in those same bodies. If we have not been really crucified with Christ

it is impossible to reach the ground he stands on. Let us go forth, therefore, unto Him without the camp, joyfully bearing the burden and heat of the day, with hearts reconsecrated to God. Let us yet make our missionary work a great success, in the name of Him who "counted us worthy, putting us into the ministry," with the blessed premise, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end."

THOMAS MUNNELL.

The Report of the Board was referred to Committees as follows:—

On Raising Funds by the Home Ministry—J. H. Garrison, Mo.; D. R. Lucas, Iowa; S. M. Conner, Illinois.

On Building up Weak Churches—J. A. Brooks, Mo.; Alex. Proctor, Mo.; F. M. Kirkham, Iowa.

On Work among the Freedmen—W. A. Belding, New York; J. J. Errett, Mo.; A. M. Atkinson, Ind.

On General Mission Matters contain d n t e Report—Dr. W. H. Hopson, Mo.; A. I. Hobbs, Ills.; G. W. Longan, Mo.

The following communication, from brethren in Dakotah Territory, was read by the Corresponding Secretary, and referred to the Committee on General Matters contained in the Report of the Board:—

COMMUNICATION.

To the General Convention of the church in Christ, which will assemble at St. Louis, Mo., October 25, 1877.

Beloved Brethren:—We address you in behalf of the brethren and churches of Christ in south-eastern Dakota. We will give you a brief statement of the situation at present. We have five congregations, at Springfield, twenty-one members; Bon Homme, six; Olivet, Hutchinson county, fifteen; Eden, Lincoln county, thirty; besides scattered brethren near Yankton, Elk Point, and Vermillion. It is important that we sustain a mission at Yankton, the capital of our territory. Could we rent a house and, as Elder David Devol has moved there, assist him (he now preaches and supports himself) we could, with the blessing of the Master, establish the cause at the capital of our territory. A suitable room in which to hold services cauld be secured in Yankton at probably a rent of one hundred dollars per annum, and one hundred and fifty dollars appropriated to the support of Eld. David Devol for preaching and performing pastoral work at Yankton, weuld, we think, establish the cause in our capital city. Elder Wm. Herrington, our regularly appointed missionary, has been laboring faithfully for several years. The field of his labors is Bon Homme county. He has received some support from the brethren here but needs aid, and could the Convention appropriate two hundred dollars for this purpose we could keep him all of the time in the field. Bro. Wood of Olivet, Hutchinson county, is now laboring in Northern Nebraska and along the Little Sioux river in Iowa, so we understand. Were he aided he could devote all of his time to Dakota and perhaps visit the brethren along the Big Sioux river. We ask you to aid the laborers we already have in the field. The congregations and brethren are poor in this world's goods, but are willing. We are not aware

that any outside help has been extended to south-eastern Dakota, only the boxes of clothing sent from the brethren in Chicago (to whom be many thanks) and the papers kindly forwarded our Lord's day schools. Now may the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ be with the labors of the Convention is the prayer of your brethren in Christ.

LYMAN N. JUDD,
JOHN MCNEIL,
WM. HERRINGTON,
} *Elders of the church at Springfield, Dakota.*

DAVID DEVOL, *Elder of church at Bon Homme.*

P. S. Besides the above, there is a congregation at Maple Grove, Lincoln county, of fifteen members, Elder A. B. Fockler, but I have not been able to respond to their call for want of means.

WM. HERRINGTON, *Gen'l Missionary for Dakota.*

On motion, all visitors were invited to participate in the deliberations of the Convention. Also, all persons, members of other religious bodies, were invited to accept the same courtesy.

Short speeches were then made by Brethren J. LaGrange, Minnesota; A. M. Atkinson, Ind.; W. A. Belding, New York; J. M. Trible, Tenn.; A. I. Hobbs, Ills.; T. Munnell, Ky.; John A. Brooks, Missouri.

At the conclusion of these short speeches, Brother Campbell, from the Committee on Order of Business, made several announcements, after which the Convention adjourned.

Benediction by J. H. Garrison.

SECOND SESSION—THURSDAY, 7 P. M.

The social services were led by J. C. Tully, Indiana, and participated in by brethren Z. T. Sweeney, D. R. Lucas, P. D. Vermilion, J. H. Duncan, E. B. Cake, J. W. Allen, J. J. Errett, Alex. Proctor, and J. W. Conner.

The social services being concluded, the congregation was led in prayer by brother W. A. Belding.

President Pendleton then delivered his Annual Address, to a large and attentive audience, taking for his theme, "The Preacher and the Church."

The Committee on the Order of Business reported for Friday as follows:—

1. Devotional exercises from 9 to 9.30 A. M.
2. Report of the Hymn Book Committee.
3. Report of the Recerding Secretary.
4. Report of the Treasurer.

5. Special Report of the Corresponding Secretary.
6. Reports of Standing Committees.
7. Reports of Special Committees.
8. Miscellaneous business.
9. Adjournment.

Afternoon.—2 o'clock—Meeting of the Foreign Missionary Society.

On motion, a committee on Obituaries was formed as follows: T. P. Haley, Missouri; R. M. Bishop, Ohio; and W. A. Belding, New York.

A Committee on Nominations, consisting of five persons appointed by the Chair, was ordered, viz: L. B. Wilkes, Mo.; J. F. Wright, Ohio; W. A. Belding, New York; J. W. McGarvey, Ky.; and J. D. Metcalfe, Illinois.

The Committee on Place of Meeting consists of J. W. Leslie, Ohio; A. I. Hobbs, Illinois; and J. M. Tilford, Indiana.

After the necessary announcements, the Convention adjourned. Benediction by Bro. J. C. Reynolds.

FRIDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

The devotional exercises were conducted by D. R. Lucas, of Iowa.

At the conclusion of these services, the minutes of Thursday's sessions were read and approved.

The order of business was then taken up, and the report of the Hymn Book Committee was made by the Chairman, R. M. Bishop, of Ohio.

HYMN BOOK REPORT.

The Trustess of the Hymn Book beg leave to make the following report:

Amount of royalty received since last report		$1,399 74
Paid Enterprise Insurance Company on plates.	32 50	
" Miss B. Wilson for editorial work on Hymnal	100 00	
" Thomas Munnell Corresponding Secretary as per his receipt.....	1,267 24	
		$1,399 74

In order to aid destitute churches and supply our brethren with the cheapest and best book of the kind in this or any other country, as far as we know, we authorized the publishers to issue a cheap edition of the Hymnal in boards to retail at 50 cents per copy, $4.80 per dozen by express, $5 40 by mail. This edition has been well received and gives, as far as we can learn, universal satisfaction

Bespectfully submitted,
R. M. Bishop,
O. A. Burgess, C. H. Gould,
W. H. Lape, J. B. Bowman,
Trustees.

After remarks by several brethren, the report was sent to a committee of three, consisting of J. C. Reynolds, A. I. Hobbs, and Alex. Proctor, with the following instructions, viz; To "investigate the *actual cost* of publishing the books, and the *feasibility* of the Hymn Book Committee receiving bids, and giving the publishing of the same to the lowest responsible bidder; and to consider other matters pertaining to the hymn book interest, and report to this Convention at the earliest possible moment."

The Recording Secretary's Report was read by D. W. Chase, and approved.

REPORT OF RECORDING SECRETARY

To the General Christian Misssonary Convention.

SUMMARY.

Balance in Treasury last report	$599 84
Received during the year	2,727 19
Total	$3,327 03

Paid out as follows:—

Order No. 1010,	J. H. Berry	$135 00
do 1011,	H. Drennan	2 50
do 1012,	J. H. Berry	19 20
do 1013,	Thomas Munnell	333 33
do 1014,	F. M. Green	13 50
do 1015,	Bacon Bequest for Investment	507 36
do 1016,	George Owen	24 00
do 1017,	Thomas Munnell, Balance	66 01
do 1018,	Levi Wood	19 20
do 1018,	Levi Wood	50 00
do 1019,	J. H. Berry	125 00
do 1020,	J. H. Berry	12 00
do 1021,	J. H, Berry	111 00
do 1022,	W. B. Berry	67 00
do 1023,	J. H. Berry	14 82
do 1024,	P. H, Morse	50 00
do 1025,	S. E. Mo. Mission	5 00
do 1027,	Dr. Kirkpatrick	150 00
do 1028,	William Brooks	15 00
do 1029,	H. J. Braboy	15 00
do 1030,	Thomas Munnell	144 94
do 1031,	Thomas Munnell	188 39
do 1032,	Dr. Kirkpatrick	30 00
do 1033,	Dr. Kirkpatrick	50 00
do 1034,	S. E. Mo. Mission	10 00
do 1035,	Neosta Co. Kansas	31 64
do 1036,	J. H. Berry	3 00
do 1037,	J. A. Kirkpatrick	50 00
do 1038,	Thomas Munnell	97 71
do 1039,	J. A. Kirkpatrick	50 00
do 1040,	P. H. Morse	50 00
do 1041,	Levi Wood	10 00

Order No. 1042,	Thomas Munnell	131 50	
do 1043,	Thomas Munnell	50 00	
do 1044,	J. A. Kirkpatrick	50 00	
do 1045,	J. A. Kirkpatrick	35 65	
do 1046,	P. H. Morse	50 00	✓
do 1047,	W. A. Belding	25 00	
do 1048,	Thomas Munnell	387 66	
			$3181 36
Balance			$145 67

D. W. CHASE, *Rec. Secretary.*

The Report of the Treasurer, James Leslie, was read and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

CINCINNATI, Oct. 22, 1877.

JAMES LESLIE, Treasurer, *in account with the General Christian Missionary Convention,*

1876.		DR.	
Oct. 14,	Balance in treasury		$599 84
22,	Cash received from Oct. 14, 1876 to Oct. 22, 1877		2,674 86
Total			$3,274 70
		CR.	
Cash paid on orders from Oct. 14, 1876, to Oct. 22, 1877			3,181 36
Balance in treasury			$93 34
Oct. 23,	Cash received this day, in addition to above		52 33
Balance this date			$145 67

JAMES LESLIE, *Treasurer.*

The whole financial results of the year, therefore, are—

General Treasurer's Report	$3,327 03
State Treasurers' Reports	45,410 90
Hymn Book Fund	1,399 74
Raised by Corresponding Secretary for weak churches	1,450 00
Total	$51,587 67

The Auditor's Report was read and ordered upon the minutes.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

CINCINNATI, Oct; 23, 1877.

Having examined the accounts and vouchers of the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries and Treasurer of the General Christian Missionary Convention, for the year ending October, 1877, I find them correct.

B. W. WASSON, *Auditor.*

The special report of the Corresponding Secretary was read and referred, after discussion by various brethren, to the following special committee, viz: W. T. Moore, O.; G. W. Longan, Mo.; D. R. Lucas, Minn.; L. B. Wilkes, Mo.; S. M. Conner, Ills.

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Brethren: I desire to state a few facts that could not well come into the Report of the Board, but which I think will contain information useful to this Convention. It is well known that an uncomfortable degree of uncertainty has settled upon the minds of many brethren as to the future of our missionary work. Some have supposed that what is called the Louisville Plan has proved to be a failure, and as other plans are supposed to have failed, we have but a poor prospect of effective co-operative work. But the Louisville plan is neither dead nor asleep. It is stirring the dry bones more to-day than ever before. It is calling more attention to the fundamental conditions of success, fourfold, than any missionary movement we ever made. What means all this deep concern for our vacant churches and for the cause of Christ in our hands generally, as seen in our recent State Conventions, Ministerial Associations, and in this Convention? How did we find out all about these needy churches, our scattered and scattering ministry. Why did not the old Missionary Society discover these things to us? Why is it that only since we began to have our State and District Evangelists this concern has been so rapidly growing? The old Society lasted more than twice as long as this organization has, and while joyfully recognizing all the good it did, it must be acknowledged that it never disturbed our equaminity as to these things. Its business was with the more wealthy churches and individuals, and raised means to break new ground and not to look after the destitute. But this organization sent out its evangelists into every district exploring the poorer regions. We found neither the condition of the churches nor habits of the ministry, would enable us to work the excellent system we had organized. We had never suspected our inability to work by system. But no arrow ever went more directly to its mark than did this same Plan go to the very heart of our weakness. The working of the organization implied a condition of things in the churches and ministers that did not exist. The plan has not accomplisred what we expected, but it has done what we needed to have done. It has been one of the greatest gifts of God to the church, in showing us our deficiencies and in laying the foundation for permanen tsuccess. The Plan is biding its time. It had a work to do in us first, but we will soon be ready to do a work by it. We need to make no changes, for as soon as we are able to work any plan, we can work this one. All funeral sermons over it are slightly premature since it never exerted as much influence over us as it does this day.

The fault, then, has not been in the plan, for it is a better one than we are able to work—rather too good for us till we get our churches and ministry into better working order. What I shall say in the following pages will be in no spirit of fault-finding or discouragement. It is intended to be explanatory of our apparent failures, and to show the brethren that the present status of things can be traced back to its cause—a cause that heretofore has been unknown. These causes I must detail, that we may know how to remove them. There is no call for any sourness, nor scolding, nor fallen faces, but a manful diagnosis of the case, and a cheerful effort to apply the remedy. The fault is not in the Plan, nor in the Boards, nor evangelists, nor in the illiberality of the members, *but in the dilapidated condition of so many of our churches, and in the non co-operation of our home ministry in raising missjonary funds.* Without said ministerial co-operation but little can be done. Accordingly five years ago I began to work upon the problem—

How to secure said co-operation without endangering the independence of the churches. This was not plain at first, but it soon became manifest that without it success was impossible. Calls for collections through our papers and circulars were too cheap a method, and agencies were too dear; loose promises in exciting conventions, could not be depended on, no matter who made them. Other religious bodies were depending almost entirely upon their pastors as the final result of all their experience. But their pastors were organized into conferences or associations in which they agree to become responsible to one another for attending to such collections. Their reputation for efficiency and covenant keeping depended somewhat on their faithfulness in it. Hence they raise their half millions every year, simply because their ministry, bound not the churches, but bound themselves to teach and then ask the churches for such funds. When our general organization was effected in 1869 we tacitly assumed that our pastors would do the same without any such Ministerial Associations to bind them together in co-operative action. In this we were entirely mistaken, Our ministry being wholly uncommitted to any such covenant they nearly all, to this day, habitually neglect this duty. Nor was it reasonable to expect any other result. Several years of study and earnest effort have finally resulted in incipient organizations of "Ministerial Associations" in several States, one of whose chief objects is, to work to put money into the hands of the Missionary Boards to enable them to sustain State and general work. They do not propose to *bind the churches* to anything, but to *bind themselves* to teach the congregations their duty, and solicit them to give for our treasuries. This they have a right to do.

But just while completing these arrangements so far, we picked up the Report of the Congregational Ministerial Association in Illinois, the perusal of which is very instructive. It shows:

1. Their congregations are as independent as ours are, their Ministerial Association infringing not the least upon their liberty. Their ministry simply bind themselves to one another to work in the churches for the general good—for missions and vacant churches.

2. They have proved that Independency is just as capable of co-operating as Episcopacy. *But it requires ministerial leadership in the churches* and those leaders mutually pledged to each other to urge the members to their duties. We have for a long time contended that a working system does not involve a ruling system, and the Congregationalists have proved it.

3. They have only 241 churches in Illinois, about one-third of our number, but they gave last year for their various missions over $31,000, while our brethren, with 750 churches, raised less than $2,000. Now, admitting them to be much richer in the cities than we are, does this explain the difference? According to numbers, they have raised fifty cents to our one. Is it because their members are better, or naturally more liberal than ours? No. The whole matter is summed up in the fact that they have a Ministerial Association to raise missionary money and to supply their feeble churches with a ministry. They acknowledge they could do but little without it.

4. Of their 241 churches 166 are supplied with ministers in full, 23 supplied in part, and 47 unsupplied. That is 70 per cent. of their churches are supplied in full. And this comes to pass because they have also a general missionary agent in the State whose duty is to negotiate between pastors and churches to get them supplied, leaving only 20 per cent. of them unsupplied. As Paul sent preachers to needy churches this is all right.

Now if this Convention is not afraid te hear how it is with us as to needy churches, I will read you the statistics of eight different States which I have been at pains to collect from the State Evangelists and others most conversant with these things. These are all given with considerable accuracy, except Missouri. But in this case I put the State down more favorably than the average figures of three different brethren made them. I give the number of churches that have preaching all the time, half the time, one-fourth the time and none of the time, in each of the following States:

	Whole No. of Churches.	Preaching all the time.	Preaching half the time.	Preaching fourth the time.	No regular Preaching.
Virginia	140	4	7	65	64
New York	38	21	5		12
Ohio	350	55	85	120	100
Kentucky	600	35	65	250	250
Indiana	625	85	125	165	250
Illinois	730	50	70	250	360
Iowa	200	14	46	40	100
Missouri	500	40	70	200	190
Totals	3,183	304	473	1,090	1,326

It must be remembered that this shows a great improvement on what was fifteen or twenty years ago, when few, even, of our cities and towns had regular ministerial labor; the figures are not to be used to discourage, but rather the contrary, and yet it is necessary to see how much we still lack and how much we must yet do in our churches before we can expect large missionary contributions for the world.

These footings show that less than *ten* per cent. of our churches in these eight States are in full supplied with ministerial labor; less than *fifteen* per cent have preaching half the time; *thirty* per cent. only one-fourth of the time, and *forty-two* per cent. have only occasional or no preaching. The 1090 churches that have monthly preaching, may be set down as having little or no pastoral care, as the ministers seldom stay longer than to preach on Lord's day as we all know. The 473 that have preaching half the time, of course, have better care, but they, no doubt, fall as far below pastoral care as the last named are above the occasional, or no preaching. That is, the monthly and semi-monthly are on different sides of the dividing line between the two extremes of pastors and no regular preaching. I mean to say that we have as good a right to class the monthly preaching and the occasional preaching together and regard them all as having no pastoral care, as we have to regard the weekly and semi-monthly preaching as supplying regular pastoral care. If then we add together the number of churches having weekly preaching and those having it semi-monthly as having pastoral care, we will have 777, or about 24 per cent. of the whole. If we add those having monthly and those having no regular preaching together, we have 2416 of them, or about 76 per cent. that may be regarded as having no pastoral care whatever. In this, of course, we profess to have the truth only proximately, but we are satisfied it does the condition of the churches no injustice. Of the Congregationalist churches we have just seen 70 per cent. are fully supplied, while in ours 76 per cent. are practically unsupplied. Can we reasonably expect to raise much missionary money under the circumstances? Can churches so neglected be expected to give for missions? Even if they have the money, are they in a spiritual condition to do much?

Then what are we to expect of the 24 per cent. that have ministers when these ministers have no compact agreement among themselves in any kind of association that they will co-operate in this work? If one does solicit funds he has no assuranee that there is another one in the State that is doing the same thing, and the sense of solitariness soon dampens his ardor in the work. And yet many good people wonder why the Plan wont work. Naughty Plan! stubborn thing! It just *wont* work. The Plan has been expected to work whether there were pastors in the churches or not, and whether the pastors we have ask the churches for missionery money or not. Just blame it all on the plan.

If the home ministry, the coming year, all neglect the contributions in their own churches, perhaps it all could be atoned for at the next Convention by fixing the plan over a little. A resolution to change the name or something might help. Or a motion to abolish the Plan might fetch the 76 per cent. of our churches into order, and supply them with earnest preachers of the gospel. When the engine stands motionless it needs nothing but steam. No amount of tinkering at it will ever put steam into it.

I am not finding fault with our churches nor with our noble ministry, so much as with the lack of a national method of ministerial co-operation. Of the 219 Congregationalist ministers in Illinois all but 32 are members of their Ministerial Association, and we see the result. This ministerial co-operation is all that is needed among us. It is all I ask to insure success. The churches will give if they are taught first and then solicited individually. But our ministry, for various reasons, are habitually neglecting it; one, because his members are supposed to be too poor to give as much for missions as for cigars or for shows and concerts, another is unwise enough to think it would cripple his own support; another, because he "never could beg," representing Jesus Christ as a beggar at the doors of those poor culprits whom he has saved from hell; but most of them neglect it because there is no well understood concert of action among the officiary of the different congregations—preacher, elders and deacons.

Will any one say our membership could not or would not average 25 cents a year, making $125,000 in cash, if they were properly taught? The ministry for some reason, have failed to come to the front in this matter, and then come up to the Convention and, as innocent as the babes in the woods, mourn because so little money has been raised. If any of you could make a parable and could represent several hundred locomotives as coming together in convention every year to consult why so little business had been done, when they had habitually left their trains behind, you would not miss us as a ministry very far. They might scream, and puff, and hiss. and fume, year after year, without ever considering the propriety of bringing their trains along with them every trip. The preachers, elders and deacons, and especially the preachers, are the locomotives in this work, and when they come to Convention they ought to be able to show that they have drawn their churches into this good work. Otherwise our Conventions, both State and General, will, after a while, become serious absurdities. Teach the members first in public, and then see every one in private, or *have* them seen, for a donation, and if you are doing much good for the church you will have influence euough to get something from most of them.

We have already seven State Ministerial Associations who meet for ministerial improvement. Let them take up the work of raising missionary funds also, as a part of their duty, to sustain both State and

General Missions. Let them bring up their money and pledges to each annual meeting for work the *following* year, and the Boards can send out Timotheuses and Tituses to set in order the many things that are wanting in our 2,000 vacant churches. If the next five or ten years should be required to do this, it would be a momentous achievement indeed. If we can do this work without ministerial associations all right, but it has never been done by others, and will not likely be done by us. The Apostles themselves. held ministerial councils, and arranged for raising money for benevolent purposes, and projected the general interests of the church at large. Not only did "James and all the Elders," meet Paul and seven other preachers at one time in special consultation, but at another time Paul and Barnabas, and Silas, and Judas, and Titus, and Peter, and James, and John, and all the Elders met and took council together cencerning the general interests of the churches in Judea, in Syria, and Cilicia, and the regious round about. But we took such fright in former years at clerical councils, that we seem now to be afraid to follow the Apostles in having a "care of all the weak churches." But we will not be apt to improve much upon the wisdom of God. The Papacy in its very incipiency shoved the Tituses out of the church and substituted diocesan bishops, and no Protestant people have ever yet replaced them. This is the great deficiency with us. It is the locomotive of most of our other deficiencies. But as they must be supported in the peculiar work they have to do, like that of Bro. Davis in south-east Missouri, the home ministry must raise the necessary means. It remains to be seen whether they will do this or not, and it should be decided before the adjournment of this Convention.

But allow me to warn you, brethren, against any resort to raise money that does not embrace the regular work of the pastors at home. The plan adopted in Kentucky the past year of getting large pledges under the influence of a devoted and enthusiastic agent, like Bro. Shouse, is short lived. They will not do as well the next time he goes round, even if he could keep up the same momentum from year to year. The plan adopted in Missouri this year, and other years, of raising pledges from a few churches represented in the Conventions is also very imperfect and transient. The agency plan has been proved by all peoples to be too expensive as well as meagre in results, and the sum total of the experience of all Protestants is that the *home ministry must do this work*, and the sooner we come to the same conclusion the less time we will lose, the fewer staggering churches will fall, and the fewer sinners will die unprepared for eternity. It is useless for the preachers to say—"Let the *churches* raise the money," when the primitive *preachers* raised the money *in* the churches. Or to say, "Let the deacons raise it," for it was Paul, and Titus, and Barnabas, and such like ministers that used to raise the money for benevolent purposes. Let every screen be taken away from before the preachers and elders, and let them feel that the responsibility rests especially upon themselves to rouse the members and all to this important duty. To enable the preachers to do this, let them have a Ministerial Association in each State, both to improve themselves in their literary, theological, and æsthetical studies, and to provide in every possible way through the State and General Boards the welfare of the church and the conversion of the world. We have, as said before, such associations already in seven different States, but so far, they have done but little except for their own improvement. The cause of the poor whose hands hang down, and whose knees are feeble, seldom, if ever, gets a hearing before them. Think of fifty or more chief preachers gathered from all

points of the State to read model essays, preach model sermons, and offer appropriate criticisms upon each others productions, and then go home, when the very county in which they meet has from three to six ruined churches, few Sunday Schools, few prayer meetings, no pastoral labor, except in the county seat; no missionary money; good men discouraged, and all the brood of evils that follow—think of it, if it be not unthinkable, that fifty preachers are in session almost in sight of this distress, and not one poor hour spent in considering the methods of relief. In this, again, I am not censuring our ministry so much as the wretched ecclesiology we have inadvertantly accepted, which in fear of clerical domination has driven the preachers from the lead to the rear of the congregations; from a "care of all the churches," to a care of themselves and of their own individual charges. It would be well if some new topics could be introduced into our Ministerial Associations, such as—Do the Scriptures authorize any general care of needy churches? Are the ministry responsible for anything outside of their own congregations? How to get the officiary of each country church to have regular monthly official meetings to consider every business interest of the church. The duty of every preacher to raise missionary money, and the best methods of doing it. Does the Bible authorize any such thing as ministerial conferences about the general welfare of the church? These and such questions should, for a while, take the place of many others that occupy so much time. Let these Associations be great working forces, and let membership in them be an honor to any minister of Christ in the State. For something of the kind almost every experienced preacher in the land is anxious. Forty years' effort to secure church co-operation without ministerial co-operation has failed, and forty years more under the same circumstances will but repeat the failures of the past. Why then should it be postponed.

Now suppose the bulk of the ministry, of Missouri say, should come together at their next Association and agree to become responsible to each other mutually for carrying out the following purpose—To report at each Annual Association the money and pledges of their respective churches for mission work the following year, so that the Missionary Board would know what they have to depend on. Let each one make his report to the Association on roll call. Let each one be responsible for collecting any unpaid pledges, and send the money to the State Treasurer. Let them not depend upon dime collections, but see their members personally and average fifty cents, at least, all round. Fifty such preachers would enable the State to have two Evangelists setting in order what is wanting all the year, besides allowing the General Board to enjoy the novelty of receiving their dividends regularly. Eaery preacher so located would gain additions, raise missionary money, establish Sunday Schools, and work from house to house. But if the ministry take no such action, nor take any care of the feeble, then I shall be thankful that I am not to live fifty years longer to witness the desolations and bankruptcy of the church of God.

But we must not be discouraged. Solomon intimates that "If thou art weary on the way it is because thy strength is small." If we meet boulders in the way, whet your swords on them and renew the fight. We have needed the study of the situation which our Plan has forced us to. We need the healthy discouragements of the past few years. We needed time both to ascertain and study the statistical facts above stated. We could not hurry the decade. We are growing into more practical views of things as fast, perhaps, as is healthy. Eleven years ago the Sunday School business was voted out of our General Conven-

tion, as not germain to our work; fifteen years ago we had but few regular pastors in our churches, and our religious literature and educational forces were far inferior to what they are to-day, We knew but little of the wants of our feeble churches, and not even the outlines of any system marked out that would lead us to make the discovery. But now when the Louisville Plan drove out devoted Evangelists, up and down the country everywhere, to make the necessary reconnoisances and we see our wants, we fall back in dismay and pronounce the plan a failure. It is a failure like some of God's other plans seem to be when they drive you down through the debris till you touch rock bottom before you begin to build upward.

I know I am liable to indictment for *hobbyism.* To this I would plead guilty, for ever since 1864 when, as State Evangelist of Kentucky, I had made my first acquaintance with the condition of our churches, I have ceased not to urge with tongue and pen, in public and private, and possibly to the annoyance of some of my brethren, the great necessity of securing a ministry for the feeble. I would be very willing, however, to have this indictment presented before Him who with triple emphasis commanded Peter and all the rest of us saying: "Feed my sheep, feed my lambs."

As you all are ambitious of success in this work, I also confess to a boundless, irrepressible ambition, sanctified I think, to compel success over all obstructions. One discouraged brother then says, "I don't see the way through." Well neither do I, but the Lord does, "We walk by faith, not by sight." Another says, "the brethren won't carry out your plans." Then perhaps they will carry out better ones. Another, "our brethren will never come into organized efficiency—will never leave the old ruts." I answer, they will come into anything which they see to be manful, right and scriptural. No one is more free to "Play the man for God," than a Christian preacher.

But will the ministry be *able* to carry out this work of raising missionary money, even if they in their Associations agree to it? They will be in the following manner. Let the preacher, elders, and deacons of every congregation establish regular monthly official meetings in which every interest of the church shall be carefully considered—prayer meetings, Sunday Schools, finances, the condition and wants of the members, missionary matters and all. Unfortunately such official meetings scarcely have an existence outside of the cities and larger towns. Monthly preachers will visit country congregations for years and never think of the value of official meetings, and so no business habits are ever established in their churches. But suppose it be announced from the pulpit that the whole officiary had considered the missionary needs and recommended every member to give as they are able, and suppose this be followed by proper public instruction until the congregation will feel their duty, and then let the preacher either in person or by others see that every member is asked for a contribution and the work will be done. The church seldom doubts the wisdom of what all her officers recommend. But in the absence of official meetings seldom is anything attended to as it should be—a few pay all that is paid, the many pay nothing for anything; they lose their spiritual life, the few are burdened, the church staggers, gives nothing for missions, goes without a preacher and dies purely for want of ministerial leadership, and for want of semething to do.

Of course if the leaders in the army fail to co-operate all is lost; and if our ministry either *can* not or *will* not raise our missionary money, the sooner that is known the better. We had better do nothing else till we find that out. All other methods have failed and it was right

they should fail. The preachers and elders are the divinely appointed agents to raise money in their churches for benevolent uses, and it will be folly for us to disregard this "ancient order" any longer. The Corresponding Secretaey should give his time chiefly the coming year to the ascertaining of what the home ministry are able and willing to do. The Ministerial Associations of Indiana, Michigan and Illinois have already committed themselves to this work, and so they will do in other States. And here I leave these faithful words—*faithful* whether wise or not. I am strong in the hope of complete victory over all obstructions. Two years yet before our first decade of organized existence shall have passed. At the end of that period we shall see our way out of the wilderness. We have no idea of surrendering a cause like this. We would be ashamed to go to Heaven, ashamed to meet the Saviour, ashamed to see Alexander Campbell, ashamed of ourselves and ashamed of one another. God help us to go to work, "that we may not be ashamed before Him at His coming."

PERSONAL.

I have been your standard-bearer in the field for nine consecutive years. I see many imperfections in myself and in my work, and perhaps you see a great many more. My duty, according to the Constitution, has been to "promote the harmonious co-operation of all the State and District Boards and Conventions," and not to be a solicitor of money for the General treasury. True I have had much of this to do because the State Boards have been unable to send on our dividends. Of this I have not complained, hoping that in a few years they would be able, and that I could then get at my legitimate business as an evangelist at large. But as I am now satisfied that unless the church leaders do their part in raising funds, the work of the Corresponding Secretary must go on about as usual, I would have to decline a re-election even if tendered, if my brethren in the ministry still intend to give me such a wide berth. Not that I would have the slightest ill feeling toward any one of them, for to have enjoyed the confidence of a body of men like this is more than a king's crown to me—more than royal honors conferred by the noblest kings and priests on earth. It will go with me to my latest day, whether these my labors cease to-day or not. But if I should feel compelled to refuse any further appointment, it would be because the very heavy and ceaseless responsibilities I have borne day and night, winter and summer, without a murmur or a vacation, cannot result in the good they ought without the co-operation of the ministry—and also because the position works great injustice to me personally. Year after year when not only the means that came to the General Treasury, but nearly or quite half of what was done by the States had been due to my personal efforts in helping them, still by a strange kind of injustice I have been credited with having done little or nothing, except to gather about $5,000 annually from the whole United States.

I now submit that if the Convention desires to go on at the same rate, there are brethren to be had for Corresponding Secretary that can raise more money, as solicitors at large, than I am willing to raise, for I told the Convention when I began nine years ago I would not work that way any longer than was necessary to get our organization started. Unless I can see some chance in the future to get at the proper work of an evangelist in helping to get things into better order and have some means in our treasury for the South, the West and the East, I can spend my life more profitably as pastor of some congregation, and immeasurably more to the satisfaction of my half forsaken

family. My services may not under any circumstances be needed. If so, it will relieve me of a heavy load which I have carried without faltering or complaint. I commend all the brethren and all these weighty interests to the care of God our Saviour, in the hope that what little I have done in my present position will be found unto praise and honor at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

THOMAS MUNNELL.

Rev. Dr. J. G. Wilson, of St. John's M. E. Church, St. Louis, was introduced to the Convention, and invited to accept its courtesies.

W. A. Belding, from the Committee to which was referred that part of the Report of the Board relating to the Freedmen, presented the report of the Committee, as follows:—

THE FREEDMEN.

Your Committee to whom was referred that part of the Report of the Board which pertains to missionary work among the Freedmen, beg leave to suggest, in view of their position and the injunction of our blessed Master to "*preach the gospel to every creature*," that the effort be not only continued, but increased in that direction; and believing that it is impossible to christianize them withopt educating them; we therefore recommend that every laudable effort be made to establish the school in Mississippi already under contemplation, for the educatiou of men to preach to them, and for which about $13,000 has already been subscribed.

All of which we respectfully submit.

W. A. BELDING,
J. J. ERRETT,
A. M. ATKINSON, } *Committee.*

John A. Brooks, from the Committee to which was referred that part of the report of the Board relating to "weak churches," presented the report as follows:—

WEAK CHURCHES.

Your Committee to whom was referred so much of the Secretary's Report as related to the edification of weak churches would respectfully submit:

That while we fully realize the importance of the work of evangelization at home and abroad, and should do all in our power to send the Gospel to the utmost limits of earth, yet we would especially commend to the attention of the Convention the necessities of the many weak churches throughout their field of operation, and urge upon the Convention the importance of building up these churches, until they shall become self-sustaining and enter into full co-operation with us in all good works. To this end we would recommend that the Society give especial attention to this important field of operation during the coming year.

Respectfully,

JOHN A. BROOKS.
ALEX. PROCTER,
F. M. KIRKHAM, } *Committee.*

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

The Convention met for an hour to receive the report of the Hymn Book Committee, which, after being read and briefly discussed, was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE HYMN BOOK.

We, your Committee, to whom was referred the Report of the Trustees of the Hymn Book, present the following:

We have ascertained that the contract with the present publishers, Chase & Hall, has three years yet to run. We therefore, recommend that the Convention appoint a committee of judicious brethren to confer with the Trustees with reference, 1st, To the propriety of an improved and enlarged edition of the Hymnal. 2d, To the propriety of publishing a cheap edition of the Hymnal for protracted meetings, that could be sold for from 10 cents to 20 cents. 3d, We also recommend that when a new contract is to be made it be submitted to competitive bids.

J. C. REYNOLDS,
ALEX. PROCTER,
A. I. HOBBS. } *Committee.*

Amendment by Alex. Procter.—That said Committee confer with the Trustees as to the propriety of discontinuing the publication of the old hymn book.

[R. M. Bishop, Chairman of the Trustees of the Hymn Book, explained that according to the deed of grant by which they act, they were not under obligation to make report to the General Convention; but they had always done so as an act of courtesy. In Indianapolis in 1870 on motion of Geo. Campbell, their report had been referred to a committee consisting of W. K. Pendleton, R. R. Sloan, B. F. Rogers, W. R. Jewell, and J. C. Reynolds, who reported "that they do not judge it to be any part of the business of the Society or Convention to decide any question connected with the publication of the Hymn Book." The Convention ordered this report referred back to the committee with instructions to report at the next annual convention. In 1871 that committee reported that the Trustees "have discharged the duties of their trust with the greatest economy, and according to the strictest rules of business; that the publication of the hymn book was offered to the widest competition, and the contract awarded at a rate of over 15 per cent. lower than that of any other proposition."]

The Committee advised above consists of J. C. Reynolds, Alex. Procter, and W. T. Moore.

The sessions of the Sunday School division of the General Convention were then held, A. I. Hobbs in the chair.

The Christian Woman's Board of Missions held its sessions Saturday afternoon and evening.

At the conclusion of these services, the General Convention adjourned until Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

The Committee on Order of Business reported for Monday morning as follows:—

1. Devotional services, to be led by brother Geo. W. Minier, of Illinois.
2. Continued enrollment.
3. Reports of Standing Committees.
4. Reports of Special Committees.
5. Unfinished business.
6. Short speeches, if the time permits.

After several announcements in behalf of the Convention, the benediction was pronounced by Isaac Errett.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

The social services were conducted by G. W. Minier, of Illinois, and were participated in by a large number of brethren in fervent prayers, praise and exhortation.

The minutes of the previous sessions of the Convention were read, and, after correction, approved

The order of business was then taken up.

Dr. W. H. Hopson, from the Committee to which was referred that part of the Report of the Board relating to "general domestic missions," read their report. Remarks were made upon it by brothers Hopson, Hobbs, Belding, McGarvey, Munnell, LaGrange, Cleaver, Haley, and Shelton, after which the report was adopted.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your Committee to whom was referred so much of the Board's Report as relates to General Domestic Missions, beg leave to submit the following:

While the work performed during the past year is gratifying, it is by no means satisfying to a large hearted and catholic spirited desire for the conversion of the world; yet we recommend the persistent holding of territory already gained, and the occupation of new positions as rapidly as the hopefully developing missionary spirit of our brotherhood will furnish the material aid necessary and the providence of God may open the way.

W. H. HOPSON,
A. I. HOBBS,
GEO. W. LONGAN,
} *Committee.*

J. H. Garrison, from the Committee on the "co-operation of the home ministry," presented the report of the committee.

The committee appointed to consider that part of the Report of the Board relating to the co-operation of the home ministry in the missionary work, and the Secretary's special report, beg leave to report as follows:

1. We recognize the fact emphasized in that part of the report referred to us, as also in the Secretary's special report, that without the co-operation of the home ministry in the raising of funds there can be no success in our missionary work.

2. That it is therefore, in the judgment of this Convention, the urgent duty duty of the preachers, elders and deacons of our churches to lend their active aid to the work of raising missionary fuuds, cultivating the missionary spirit, and thus becoming co-workers in the conversion of the world.

3. That those of us present in this Convention pledge ourselves to faithfulness in this work.

4. That any recommendation looking to organized efforts among the preachers is not in consonance with the aims of this Convention; It is the judgment of this Committee that our plan is quite sufficient for missionary work if it were carried out, and that any additional organization would not add to its efficiency.

Very respectfully,

J. H. GARRISON, L. B. WILKES,
D. R. LUCAS, G. W. LONGAN,
S. M. CONNOR. } *Committee.*

The report was unanimously adopted.

L. B. Wilkes, from the Committee on the nomination of officers, reported as follows:—

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

Your Committee to whom was assigned the duty of nominating the officers and board of the General Christian Missionary Convention for the ensuing year, beg leave to unanimously report as follows:

President—A. I. Hobbs.
Vice Presidents—R. Graham, L. B. Wilkes, O. A. Burgess.
Corresponding Secretary—F. M. Green.
Recording Secretaries—N. S. Haynes, J. W. Mountjoy, Geo. Darsie.
Treasurer—James Leslie.
Auditor—B. W. Wasson.
Board of Managers—R. M. Bishop, T. Munnell, James Leslie, D. W. Chase, James Challen, Isaac Errett, W. S. Dickinson, W. H. Lape, M. H. Slosson. All which is respectfully submitted.

J. W. MCGARVEY, W. A. BELDING,
JOS. F. WRIGHT, J. D. METCALF,
L. B. WILKES, } *Committee.*

The report of the Committee on Nominations was adopted, but, on motion, a reconsideration was ordered. which resulted in the substitution of Thomas Munnell in the place of F. M. Green, as Corresponding Secretary of the Convention, and F. M. Green in the place of Thomas Munnell on the Board of Managers. Brother Munnell, however, in view of other important work in the mission field, offered his resignation to the

Convention, when he was requested to present it to the Board for consideration.

The Committee on time and place of next Convention made its report, which, after discussion was recommitted to the Convention.

NEXT CONVENTION.

Your Committee to whom was submitted the Report on the time and place of next Convention beg leave to submit the following: In view of the difficulties attendant upon a change of time, we recommend that the time be as fixed in the Constitution, and the place Central Christian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, unless the General Board may deem it proper to name another church.

A. I. HOBBS,
JAS. LESLIE,
J. M. TILFORD, } *Committee.*

On motion the Convention adjourned until 1.30 P. M. Benediction by J. W. McGarvey.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

The Convention was led in prayer by Dr. Hopson.

On motion it was decided to be the sense of the Convention that the sessions of the Convention shall close at the close of the present session.

The following resolution was presented by James Leslie, and after discussion was adopted :—

Resolved, That we respectfully suggest that the State Conventions of our brethren at their Annual Meetings, when electing delegates to this Society, do not confine their delegation entirely to preachers; but when practicable the delegations be composed of an equal number of business men.

The following resolution was offered by N. S. Haynes :—

Resolved, That this Convention recommend to the General Board the appointment of a General Sunday School Agent, if in their judgment such appointment seems best.

At this point prayer was made at the request of the Convention, by brother L. B. Wilkes, for brother John Burns, that he may speedily recover from his sickness.

The following resolution was offered by John A. Brooks, which after discussion, was lost :—

Resolved, That the Board be instructed that in making out programmes for future meetings of this Convention, they shall arrange for a continuous sitting of this body from day to day until its business shall have been completed.

Ira J. Chase offered the following resolutions of thanks:—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to the churches of St. Louis and especially the sisters for the kind and generous hospitality to its delegates and visitors.

Resolved, That all rail road and steam boat lines who have shown favor to delegates and visitors using them, be also tendered our appreciation and regard for such courtesies.

Resolved, That the daily papers of St. Louis, and the churches of the city whose pulpits were cordially tendered to the preachers of this Convention, are also worthy of our thanks.

On motion of J. F. Wright, the following resolution was adopted:—

Resolved, That after any and all indebtedness heretofore incurred by the Board shall have been liquidated, the trust fund arising from the sale of the hymn book be appropriated under their direction for the spread of the gospel in weak and destitute places in territory unorganized for missionary work.

Sister Wallace, in behalf of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, presented to the Foreign Missionary Society $43.50, which was received in their behalf by W. K. Pendleton the President of the G. C. M. Convention.

On motion of D. R. Lucas the Convention expressed its thanks by a rising vote to brother T. Munnell, for his long and efficient service as Corresponding Secretary. Also to President W. K. Pendleton for the ability and impartiality with which he has presided over this and other conventions of this body. Pres. Pendleton responded in fitting terms.

On motion the preparation of the minutes of the General Christian Missionary Convention was committed to the secretaries for publication.

Brother J. D. Orr (colored), of Missouri, was introduced to the Convention and made appropriate remarks, after which a collection of $25.00 was taken and presented to brother Orr.

Brief remarks were made by T. P. Haley, A. M. Atkinson, S. M. Conner, T. Munnell, and others, after which the Convention united in singing "Sweet Bye and Bye," etc. The Convention adjourned to meet in Cincinnati, Ohio, in October, 1878.

Benediction by W. H. Hopson.

W. K. PENDLETON, *President.*

F. M. GREEN, *Secretary.*

RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR.

Ohio State treasury	$32 00
Collections by R. Moffett	10 72
Rutland, Ohio	1 00
Mrs. M. E. Dabney	10 00
Charlottesville, Va,	4 00
Williamsville, Ills	2 50
Williamsville, New York	2 50
La Porte, Ind	7 00
Maroa, Ill	3 55
Muncie, Ind	4 00
J. B. Knowles	5 00
A. N. Haskins	5 00
Mrs. A. N. Haskins	5 00
Abingdon, Ill	3 47
J. H. Bauserman	5 00
Hopkinsville, Ky	21 50
Allegheny, Pa	38 00
M. L. Streator	10 00
Asa Shuler	5 00
North Bloomfield, Ohio	3 00
Paducah, Ky	19 90
F. M. Green	10 00
Du Quoin, Ill	2 50
J. T. Pearcy	5 00
G. C. Lockhart	2 00
Kokomo, Ind	10 00
Mineral Ridge, Ohio	5 00
Denver, Ills	6 00
Thomas Porter	20 00
F. M. Kibbey	20 00
Hamilton, Ohio	5 00
State College, Penn	4 00
Paris, Kentucky	9 30
J. B. Mayfield	50
Sister Stemons	1 00
J. W. Robinson	10 00
Muncie, Indiana	4 05
J. H. Hamilton	50
Jacob Hughly	25 00
T. J. Clapp	10 00
Ovid Butler	10 00
Mrs. S. A. C. Brown	4 00
Jemima Granger	50
A. H. Morris	1 00
Arcadia, Ind	2 00
W. N. Evans	5 00
Isaac Williams	1 00
Noblesville, Ind	3 20
William Burton	2 00
F. F. Klinkscales	5 00
Anna M. Waggoner,	5 00
R. G. Martin	10 00
Dr. L. Tullis	3 00
M. W. Burton	5 00
T. C. Brown	5 00
R. Albright	5 00
W. H. Winfrey	2 50
A. B. Sidenstricker	5 00
David Vaughan	5 00
W. H. Plunkett	10 00
Collected by J. H. Berry—	
Bro. King	1 25
J. H. Rea	10 00
Bro. Allen	1 00
Cash	2 50
J. M. Wilson	1 00
M. B. Long	1 00
Cash	2 00
L. Walter	1 00
Sister A. Waggoner	1 00
Sister Norhill	1 00
J. W. Klinkscales	5 00
J. H. Klinkscales	1 00
W. J, Floyd,	1 00
J. R. Klinkscales	1 00
Collections, Carrollton, Mo.	2 20
J. S. Hughes	5 00
W. N. Mosby	2 50
J. S. Shoop	1 00
J. W. Green	50
Cash	1 00
Brother Orr	50
A. W. Kumble	1 00
J. D. Patton	2 00
Cash	2 00
C. J. Hughes	5 00
P. Pritble	1 00
W. Allen	1 00
W. J. Hendon	1 00
A. M. Fowler	2 00
Thomas Baben	1 00
Cash	25
W. Warriner	1 00
Anna Moore	1 00
Sister Straw	1 00
Sister Harrison	1 00

Mattie Hughes	1 00
W. A. Holman	1 50
Sister Warriner	1 00
Cash	2 00
J. S. Onorles	25
A. N. McQuisten	5 00
Brother Warriner	1 00
Sister Warriner	1 00
W. Seymour	1 00
W. R. Bellinger	1 00
W. P. Hubbell	5 00
J. D. Taylor	1 00
Brother Menifrey	2 00
Mrs. M. C. Hubbell	1 00
Sister O. Winfrey	1 00
P. A. Meyers	2 50
H. N. Wheeler	3 00
W. T. Imprey	2 00
J. W. Belt	1 00
Speed Burton	50
Sister Wright	1 00
Mollie Brown	1 00
J. H. Ottman	1 00
Frank Burris	1 00
L. W. Haney	1 00
J. B. Moberly	2 00
"Widow's Mite"	50
J. W. Roberts	2 50
Collection at Miami, Mo.	7 00
J. T. Plunkett	5 00
J. W. Harris	1 00
L. Browersmith	1 00
E. Browersmith	50
G. C. McMillen	1 00
Mrs. M. Hines	1 00
Mrs. A. E. Cross	1 00
Columbia, Missouri—	
Dr. Victor	1 00
J. K. Rogers	5 00
Sister Herring	2 00
Thomas Turner	2 00
S. Gillespie	1 00
Sister Gordon	1 00
W. R. Douglas	1 00
J. S. Moss	5 00
J. W. Strawn	1 00
J. S. Darsey	2 00
W. A. Carothorn	1 00
Sister Collins	1 00
Dr. Lenoir	1 00
S. E. Lenoir	2 00
Mrs. S. E. Lenoir	2 00
N. B. Elgin	1 00
F. B. Torney	1 00
Miss Carrie Gordon	50
W. L, Victor	5 00
James Rogers,	1 00
Sam Dinwiddie	4 00
Hattie Dinwiddie	1 00
W. B. Estes	5 00
E. A. Hamilton	1 20
G. W. Turner	1 00
S. P. Martin	1 00
J. A. Monroe	5 00
Porter&JennieGillespie	5 00
Mary Sterne	2 00
Sarah D. Lenoir	1 00
B. W. C. Lenoir	1 00
W. E. Lenoir	1 00
Father Bradford	15 00
T. C. Newman	1 00
W. N. White	1 00
Sister Bradford	50
Lay Hume	50
F. B. Kirtley	25
T. Prather	1 00
F. Spencer	1 00
H. C. Phillips	1 00
S. B. Spencer	1 00
A. Spencer	50
J. H. Triby	50
Mrs. Cowhard	1 00
D. Shannon	1 00
Sister Bradford	50
J. A. Belton	1 00
B. F. White	50
J. R. Pensinger	1 00
Bro. Steward	3 00
New Franklin, Mo.—	
W. Smith	3 00
J. Smith	3 00
W. P. Lloyd	1 00
Colman Brown	2 00
O. K. White	5 00
Mr. Crews	1 00
Page Crews	5 00
S. N. Dunkle	2 50
Rocheport, Mo.—	
Brother Chambers	1 00
H. Wheeler	1 00
Brother Howe	25
Brother Wood	1 00
Brother Miller	1 00
W. Crews	50
Cash	2 00
J. B. Meller	1 00
Dr. Hubble	2 00
J. W. Champion	2 00
Collection	6 76
Judge Hinton	1 00
Hallsville, Mo.—	
Brother Matteson	1 00
Eld. Whittenburg	1 00
Wm. Henson	50

H. G. Auger	25
Collection	3 00
From several	2 25
Stevens' Store, Mo.—	
A. C. Robinson	1 00
Cameron, Mo.—	
Cash.	2 00
C. S. Packard	1 00
S. S. Ban	1 00
R. N. Williams	5 00
N. L. Walker	1 00
B. U. Watkins	1 00
Plattsburg, Mo.—	
E. M. Lyons	1 00
W. F. Rench	5 00
Mrs. S. F. Greer	2 00
Mrs. M. Gordon	1 50
C. P. Riley	2 50
J. B. Biggerstaff	5 00
Collection	75
Gallatin, Mo.—	
G. D. Williams	2 00
W. C. Gillihan	5 00
J. R. Smith	3 00
Collection	10 00
Trenton, Mo.	
W. N. Smith	1 00
Brother Pruden	50
Brother Hubble	2 00
Brother Barclay	25
Cash	1 00
Brother Collyer	1 00
Cash.	1 00
Brother Conner	1 00
Bro. and sister Smith	2 00
C. C. Supp.	1 00
Cash	1 00
St. Joe, Mo.—	
Ladies Aid Society	15 00
Collection in church	5 00
Various persons	9 25
Bibles and Testaments	19 20
W. T. Tebbs	10 00
R. Lemond	5 00
D. Riggs	2 00
J. T. Lathrop	3 00
Samuel Rutledge	3 00
W. F. Roberts	3 00
J. Frank	5 00
R. S. Estes	5 00
D. S. Honsa	3 00
Mrs. M. Scott	5 00
R. B. Hudson	15 00
A. C. Moon	10 00
J. Lobengen	2 50
L. Scouten	1 50
Frankfort, Ky	16 50
W. H. Haskell	1 00
Mrs. W. T. Wood	4 00
Clifton Prescott	5 00
A. F. Duckworth	2 00
Wm. Appleton	10 00
A. H. Wheeler	5 00
Mrs. R. Maberly	5 00
H. S. Hascall	2 00
R. M. Hutchins	10 50
Mrs. A. B. Scott	4 00
C. W. Johnson	1 00
M. S. Johnson	1 00
Mrs. R. P. Smith	5 00
Mrs. Dr. Parker	2 50
Miss E. J. Dickinson	10 00
David Louney	4 00
S. Wilson	5 00
Fanny M. Dodge	5 00
Ambrose Crutchen	2 00
T. Crutchen	4 00
J. W. Mountjoy	5 00
J. D. McCann	1 00
Lizzie Glascock	2 00
Susie and Lucy McCann	1 00
Lydia Counsel	1 50
A. A. Sears	5 00
Simeon Brinton	50
Bettie Strode	4 00
Mrs. B. DeYoug	2 50
H. P. Clore	5 00
J. J. Landman	5 00
Robert Payne	5 00
S. H. Rose	1 00
Mrs. M. C.	2 00
Martha H. Rice	5 00
T. A. Shaw	5 00
G. W. Camp	15 00
H. B. Goe	50 00
Long Grove, Iowa	16 00
Mrs. E. E. Durker	1 00
S. F. Cunningham	1 00
Mrs. E. Ford	5 00
G. Snell	2 00
C. W. Snell	1 00
W. W. Snell	1 00
W. H. Snell	1 00
Mrs. M. A. Logan	1 00
Sallie McGarick	2 00
Elizabeth Doan	2 00
H. O. and B. E. Whitehurst	1 50
Nannie Roberts	1 00
J. A. Blachford	2 00
Mary A. Bodine	1 00
John Hayden	1 00
W. H. Carter	2 00
Mrs. M. Ray	50
M. L, Lowe	5 00

G. M. Catron	50
F. A. C. Doy	1 00
Minerva J. Doy	1 00
G. A. Burns	4 00
Olive R. Loar	5 00
George Bondurant	1 00
R. S. Bennington	2 00
J. F. Dennis	1 00
Martha Blair	2 00
J. M. Allen	5 00
Silas Munsell	5 00
Lucy Carlisle	2 00
M. D. Eyman	2 00
Issa Willis	2 00
Florence Gray	2 00
R. T. Brooks	2 00
Eureka church	4 00
Brother Richardson	1 00
Brother Burris	5 00
Brother Bennett	2 00
Brother Hubbert	1 00
Brother Oviatt	2 00
Sister Trowbridge	5 00
Sister Fordice	5 00
Sister Major	5 00
W. T. Toler	1 00
B. H. Morgan	1 00
Brother Maxwell	2 00
R. Faurot	10 00
Ada Harris	1 00
R. A. Barker	1 00
H. F. Davis	3 00
H. Smith	1 00
Mrs. A. Asbury	1 00
Henry Horne	1 00
Clarinda Bashears	4 00
William Keith	1 00
Mrs. Arte Ashbrook	20 00
Mary T. Frazier	10 00
A. Levesque	2 00
William Adams	5 00
John E. Myles	5 00
R. U. Chapman	5 00
Benjamin Crist	5 00
J. L. Caldwell	5 00
E. Frazier	5 00
E. T. Caldwell	5 00
Lewis Channing	5 00
Mrs. M. Howe	4 00
J. D. Reed	5 00
A. D. Kidd	1 00
Hugh Bristow	1 00
Mt. Sterling, Ky	9 00
Mrs. C. Painter	1 00
Collected by J. H. Berry—	
C. F. Jarman	1 00
Emma Myers	1 00
Charles H. Chapman	1 00
Ann McGerrich	1 00
Nancy Honseholder	1 00
Mrs. V. Shropshire	10 00
Isaac Hayden	1 00
Dollie Hayden	1 00
J. D, Bennett	1 00
Alfred Johnson	2 00
J. L. Burns	3 00
Liberty, Ohio	3 00
Rufus Trotter	5 00
Angola, Indiana	5 00
C. W. Oak	1 00
E. H. Payne	1 00
Margaret S. Lucas	1 00
Peter Luny	4 00
Miss Anna Barbour	5 00
J. M. Sivright	15 00
Dr. J. S. Lane	20 00
T. J. Clark	5 00
Central Christian S. S., Cin.	50 00
M. H. Broaddue	5 00
W. H. Moss	5 00
B. Maxwell	5 00
H. Hadley	5 00
Henry Bruner	5 00
A. E. Clark	1 00
Priscilla McCool	2 00
E. F. Green	1 00
A. K. Branham	1 00
Mrs. S. A. Bromwell	10 00
L. W. Whaley	5 00
Lawrenceburg, Indiana	5 00
Caswell Prewett	25 00
David Carter	5 00
I. H. Swihart	1 00
J. W. Barber	5 00
J. K. Bondurant	4 00
George Flower	5 00
J. D. Hazelrigg	2 50
John Allen	5 00
D. K. Michael	5 00
A. J. Laughlin	5 00
J. Ireland	5 00
George Bicknell	5 00
Isaac Powell	5 00
Joseph Kleinbub	1 00
J. Coddington	2 00
Snachwine, Ill.	4 10
J. A. Roberts	10 00
Beverly, Ky	24 75
Harksville, Ind	7 00
W. B. Wallace	1 00
Laura A. Kipper	5 00
M. A. Showalter	1 00
Joseph Murray	1 00
A. P. Spencer	1 00

Mrs. Mary Cawthorne	1 00	R. L. Howe	20 00
George L. Force	1 00	Frank Thompson	1 00
Mrs. Harriet Hubble	1 00	William Thompson	50
Miss W. Garret	1 00	John Parker	25
Mrs. James Bush	1 00	Winslow Turner	25
Mrs. W. Hutchinson	1 00	Harry Wheeler	1 00
Mrs. J. Spark	1 00	Mary Elliott	10
Mrs. M. E. Jones	1 00	Andrew Richardson	25
Mrs. A. H. McFarland	2 00	E. J. Smoot	25
Mrs. Mary Flower	5 00	S. Botts	15
Marshall Glascock	7 00	Mattie Timberlake	10
Dabney Bowles	2 00	V. Craig	10
J. J. Moss	10 00	W. Turner	25
R. H. Moss	10 00	Green Humphry	50
F. G. Gilbert	1 00	Samuel Kelley	1 00
Milton Sprong	2 00	Jessie Claxton	25
S. C. Wilson	3 00	Owen Howe	25
C. B. Cook	1 00	Charlotte Fields	25
Jacksonville, Ill., S. S.	19 70	Ellen Thompson	25
Jacksonville church	20 30	Jane Smith	25
Philo Clark	5 00	Reuben Hurley	25
Z. K. Budgemann	5 00	Robert Wilson	10
Marietta Channing	10 00	Amy Hall	10
Mr. Dulaney	3 00	Mary Turner	25
J. J. Channing	2 50	Jane Turner	15
M. L. Franklin	1 00	Jeff Williams	10
J. P. Lowrey	2 00	Bettie Howe	25
R. S. Trumbull	1 00	Jane Burns	10
Martha Pitt	1 00	Mollie Johnson	10
Sallie Washam	1 00	Carrie Taylor	20
Mattie Shotwell	2 50	Josie Wilson	25
Mary J. Coleman	1 00	Caroline Brooks	20
Richard Thornton	1 00	Scilla Finch	15
Sisters Central church, New Albany, Ind	25 00	Kittie Clay	10
Richmond St. church, Cin.	20 00	Lee Dent	10
Hannibal, Mo.	3 00	Mary Craig	10
Dan Dulaney	1 00	Sallie Taylor	10
E. B. Challener	1 00	Ed Davis	10
Richmond Street S. S. Cin.	12 50	J. Hammond	10
Rail Road money refunded	32 77	Cash	25
J. H. Fillmore	5 00	J. S. Vandevoort	5 00
Thomas Porter	20 00	W. V. Utter	5 00
Enos Campbell	10 00	C. S. Templeman	2 50
Mrs. Enos Campbell	10 00	James Adams	5 00
Milton, Indiana	7 25	Flat Rock, Ind	3 00
M. R. Reeves	3 00	Mrs. E. A. Looney	1 00
S. M. Wales	1 00	A. C. Marys	5 00
Richard Smith	2 00	G. W. Tileworth	2 00
John Addison	2 00	J. S. Myers	6 00
Mrs S. J. Morgan	1 00	John Darst	20 00
J. M. Sivright	10 00	G. W. Strawn	3 00
G. F. Hillman	5 00	J. F. Elliott	5 00
Mrs. F. A. Berry	5 00	J. N. Duman	10 00
Bethany, West Virginia	6 00	Mrs. Kinnis	2 00
David F. Cox	2 50	Mrs. Mattie Pond	2 00
J. H. Garrison	5 00	J. W. Durham	3 00
		John Bashore	5 00

E. W. Marble	4 00
J. M. Rannells	2 00
J. M. Vandervort	5 00
Mrs. M. H. Scott	1 00
Morris Beard	50 00
Mrs. Morris Beard	50 00
R. Moffett, collection, Ohio,	10 35
Washington D. C., S. S.	10 00
Little Flat Rock	16 00
Milroy	8 10
Frankfort, Ky.	11 80
C. E. Clark	2 00
C. H. Gould	50 00
Holton, Indiana	50
W. P. Winfree	1 00
W. S. Constant	3 00
Marian Cartwell	2 00
Stephen King	5 00
Geo. A. Whitney	5 00
Snachwine, Ill	5 00
R. Faurot	10 00
Greensburg Ind.	7 36
J. W. Spriggs	5 00
Mrs. E. J. Williams	2 00
J. H. Gillespie	1 00
F. H. Kaupkee	4 00
Mrs. M. H. Wadsworth	4 00
W. F. Gilmore	1 00
J. C. Coons	1 00
Henry Pond	5 00
Judge Robinson	10 00
D. T. Thornton	5 00
J. W. Robinson	10 00
Milford Berry	5 00
J. W. Gatewood	10 00
S. T. Hadden	5 00
Richmond St. S. S. Cin'ti	12 50
Colchester, Ills	1 75
Dr. Belding	10 00
H. U. Dale	2 00
N. R. Hatch	1 00
C. C. Miller	3 00
J. F. Bergman	2 00
Richard Murphy	5 00
Wm. Loudon	5 00
Julia E. Kane	5 00
Mrs. T. D. Ellis	5 00
S. C. Farren	5 00
Cortland, Ohio	8 00
A. H. Sanders	5 00
J. H. Cartmell	3 00
Rebecca Leonard	5 00
Estella Leonard	5 00
Dr. E. A. Lodge	10 00
Mrs. Belle Hughey	5 00
Barnet Bashore	5 00
J. W. Laughead	5 00
Mrs. Mary Kinnis	3 00
G. W. Snoddy	5 00
W. A. Butler	5 00
W. F. Richards	2 00
Illinois State Treasury	4 60
A. C. Grooms	10 00
H. B. Goe	50 00
Frankfort, Ky.	23 45
Mrs. M. R. Dale	2 50
Frankfort, Ky.	3 00
G. F. Hillman.,	15 00
Thos. Goff	5 00
Richmond St. S. S., Cin'ti	12 50
C. H. Gould	50 00
Bacon Fund	40 58
Frankfort, Ky.	11 75

MINUTES

OF THE

FOREIGN CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

St, Louis, October 26th, 1877.

The Foreign Christian Missionary Society met at 2 o'clock P. M. in the Central Christian Church, corner of Twenty-third Street and Washington Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.—the time of meeting having been previously arranged by a committee of the General Missionary Couvention.

The meeting was opened by the President, Isaac Errett, reading a portion of the 10th chapter of Romans, brother A. I. Hobbs leading in prayer.

The President in a short address stated that the special object of this Society is missionary labor in foreign fields, and in no way to interfere with the objects or labors of any other society.

On motion, Resolved, That a Committee on Enrollment be appointed.

Z. T. Sweeney and J. H. Garrison, were appointed said Committee. The following is the report.—

Life Directors.—R. M. Bishop, Cincinnati, O.; H. B. Goe, Penn'a; W. T. Moore, Cincinnati, O.; Isaac Errett, Cincinnati, O.

Life Members.—F. M. Green, Ohio; J, C. Reynolds, Illinois; Joseph F. Wright, Ohio; A. I. Hobbs, Illinois; H. M. Hickok, Ohio; W. K. Pendleton, W. Virginia; D. R. Lucas, Iowa; Miss E. J. Dickinson, Illinois; Thomas Munnell, Kentucky; J. H. Hardin, Missouri; J. H. Duncan, Missouri; Central Christian Sunday School, Cincinnati, O., by D. W. Chase.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed on Order of Business, consisting of James Leslie, T. P. Haley and J. H. Duncan. Thi- Committee reported the order of business as follows, which was adopted:—

1. Report of the Board of Missions by the Corresponding Secretary, W. T. Moore.
2. Reference of Report to proper committees.
3. Appointment of Committee on Nominations.

4. Official reports.

5. Reports of Committees.

On motion, Resolved, That all the brethren present be invited to take part with us in the deliberations of this Society.

The Corresponding Secretary then read his annual report.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

In presenting our second annual report, we have great reason for thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for the measure of success which has attended our labors. It may be that what has been accomplished will not meet public expectation, for it is a general habit of those who contribute to an enterprise to become impatient as to results. The very hope which inspires generosity is always urgent in demanding satisfactory returns; and as the hope is generally high-pitched, the success must be somewhat commensurate with what seems a reasonable expectation. A failure in this respect is construed as a failure in regard to the work itself. Hence, it is somewhat difficult to reconcile a generous liberality with meager results from an enterprise on which that liberality is expended. But it will help us at this point to remember that the liberality in supporting our foreign missionary work has not been so abounding as to justify any large hopes, and that the difficulties in the way of success are so great that, even with a plentiful supply of means, we could scarcely hope to make very rapid progress for some time to come. Still, we are thankful that, notwithstanding all the hindrances in the way, we have made considerable headway, and quite enough has been accomplished to demonstrate the fact that, could our work be supported as it deserves to be, results would certainly follow sufficient to make every Christian heart shout for joy.

FINANCIAL.

We now call your attention to a somewhat detailed account of the operations of the Society during the past year. At the last Convention the Executive Board were authorized to employ Brother Z. F. Smith as financial agent, at such salary as might be agreed upon between him and the Board. In accordance with this instruction, the Board opened negotiations with Brother Smith, and finally secured his services for part of his time. Other business obligations made it impossible for him to give us all his time. Nor did he think this necessary to the best interests of the Society. He believed that by selecting the most favorable occasions, he could accomplish nearly as much as if he were in the field every day. But under no circumstances would he agree to work unless he found that his services were largely remunerative to the Society. After a fair experiment, he became convinced that, owing to the dullness in business matters and the general financial depression, it would be better for him not to push the claims of the Society until times were more propitious. The Board, after giving the whole subject careful consideration, ordered Brother Smith to discontinue his efforts to raise money for the Society until the outlook for success was brighter.

This ended our efforts to increase the funds of the Society. And as Bro. Smith did not succeed in securing, after his salary was paid, many pledges immediately available, we have had very little increase in our means over what we had secured last year. It should be stated, how-

ever, that Bro. Smith obtained a number of pledges that ought to add considerable to our funds for the next four or five years. We have on file a detailed report from him which will appear in the minutes, and an abstract of which will appear in our tabular statement.

Our first and greatest want just now is money. Promising fields for missionary work are opening up to us in every direction, but we cannot take possession of these for want of means to support our missionaries. There are plenty of faithful men who would go and do the work of the Lord, if we had the ability to send them. Oh, that our brethren could rise up to a liberality equal to their ability to give, and the importance of the work to be accomplished. We are happy to announce that a brother in England has agreed to give us one thousand dollars for work there, if a like sum can be raised in this country. We hope that this generous proposition will at once be accepted. We have also definite information that a brother in Liverpool will give five hundred dollars to start the work in that city.

BOOK-KEEPER.

As none of the officers of the Society receive any salary, and as there is considerable clerical work to be done, in order that the accounts and books may be kept correctly, it was thought best to appoint a competent book-keeper for this business. Accordingly, the Board appointed Bro. W. B. Ebbert, of Cincinnati, at a salary of $100 per annum, who has now charge of all the book entries, and business correspondence of the Society. His report of our financial condition is herewith submitted.

CINCINNATI, October 24th, 1877.

Financial Agent's report shows pledges obtained by him this year,		$4,189 30
On which new pledges he has personally collected and remitted to Treasurer,		607 90
Total amount entered to credit of individuals, churches, Sunday schools and conventions, within year ending this date,		2,174 95
Paid and charged to—		
Dr. A. Holck, for Danish Mission,		$1,000 00
H. S. Earl, for English Mission,		500 00
Z. F. Smith, Financial Agent, for services to date,		598 98
Chase & Hall, Publishers, for Isaac Errett's address and Convention minutes,		41 50
Wm. B. Ebbert, for services to date,		100 00
Total amount paid out,		$2,240 48

RESOURCES.

Due from Life Directors for year ending Oct., 1876,	$490 00	
do do do 1877,	830 00	
Total,		$1,320 00
Due from Life Members for year ending Oct., 1876,	$430 00	
do do do 1877,	1,015 00	
Total,		1,445 00
Due from Annual Members, year ending Oct., 1876,	$160 00	
do do do 1877,	330 00	
Total,		490 00
Due in 1876 and 1877 from other subscribers,		952 70
Total amount due this date,		$4,207 70

Pledges of Life Directors for 1878, 1879, and 1880,	$3.600 00	
do Life Members for 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881,	3,875 00	
do Annual Members for 1878, 1879, 1880,	1,175 00	
Other pledges maturing 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881,	4,111 50	
Total, - - - -		12,761 50
Total amount subscribed, of which about one-fourth is now due, the balance falling due through the years 1878, 1879, 1880, and 1881, - -		$16,969 20

OUR MISSIONS.

During the year we have established no new missions, mainly for the reason that we were unable to materially increase our finances. It has been the purpose of the Board from the beginning to move cautiously, so as not to undertake more than we could support. It is the settled policy of all who have now the management, that, whatever else may happen, the Society must not be involved in debt. Hence, we have been unable to offer any material aid to any other missions than those already established. These have been as amply supported as our funds would justify, and yet their usefulness would be greatly increased if we could extend to them a more generous help. Nevertheless, we have great reason to be thankful for what has been accomplished, and we are not without hope that we may soon be able to extend all the help that is necessary.

The English Mission.—This mission, under the able direction of Bro. H. S. Earl, continues to greatly prosper. When we take into consideration all the facts in the case, his success has been almost unprecedented, and furnishes both friends and foes of foreign missions much food for reflection. His success has settled several things that may have been in the minds of many somewhat doubtful. Speaking in general terms, our plea in England has not met with very much favor. We have gained a few churches, located at different points, chiefly made up of persons of little or no social influence, and apparently almost powerless to make any outside impression upon the people in favor of a return to Apostolic Christianity. This fact has been so well understood that not a few had come to the conclusion that little or nothing could be accomplished in England for our religious movement. But Bro. Earl has demonstrated beyond the possibility of a doubt that good executive ability, wise management, sound, earnest preaching, and prayerful, laborious work, will be rewarded in England as in other countries. In a word, his success has put beyond question the possibility of making our plea as effective there as in the United States or anywhere else. So far he has gained about 160 additions, while the attendance upon his ministrations is so great that the largest hall in the city of Southampton is often not capacious enough to hold the people. It is believed that this work is just beginning to tell effectively on the community, and that a very abundant harvest will soon be reaped from his labors. Let us hope and pray that our expectations will be fully realized.

The proposition of two liberal brethren in England to assist in the work of evangelization there, has been already referred to. One of these brethren authorizes us to say that he will give one third of any sum we may agree to raise for work in England and Rome. With these promises of financial aid come the earnest request that we send immediately to England another evangelist to assist Bro. Earle in the good work already begun. We trust you will take such action at this Convention as these important facts seem to justify.

The Danish Mission.—We are gratified to report the Danish Mission in excellent condition. The church in Copenhagen, which was organized by our faithful missionary, Bro. A. Holck, now numbers about thirty, and the prospect for future success is as encouraging as we could reasonably hope for. In this field there are many great difficulties to be overcome, some that would dishearten anybody of less faith and piety than belong to our devoted missionary at that point. But we are gratified to find him at all times full of hope and courage, and willing to sacrifice everything, if needs be, for the firm establishment of the pure Gospel in his own native land. We have abundant evidence of his faithfulness, and much assurance as to his success. Recently we have received a most touching tribute to his personal worth, as well as a strong testimonial as to the work he is accomplishing, signed by members of the church which he has been instrumental in founding in Copenhagen. We received two copies of this letter, one in English and the other in the native language, the English of which was published in the *Christian Standard*. We refer to this because the letter, being written to us without the knowledge of Bro. Holck, gives us a very important notice of the man and his work, and enables us to get an inside view of what he is really accomplishing. It is proper to state that Bro. Holck has, in addition to faithful preaching, prepared and pnblished several important tracts in the language of his countrymen, setting forth some of the most distinctive features of our religious belief. These are judiciously circulated, and promise to accomplish much good.

As this mission is located among the most active and energetic people of northern Europe, and as Copenhagen is the largest as well as the most important city in Denmark, should we succeed in establishing our cause firmly at that point, we have strong reason to hope that before mauy years Denmark itself may become a mighty centre of influence for primitive Christianity, from which may go out the pure Gospel to other destitute lands. It is true that we have made but a small beginning there, but when we remember what has come out of "the beginning at Jerusalem," it is impossible to forecast what may result from the little church in Copenhagen, as its pure teachings are carried by an active commercial people to all quarters of the habitable globe. But however this may be, the weighty responsibility is now laid upon us to sustain the work so promisingly begun in Denmark. And whether our hopes are realized sooner or later, our plain duty now is to extend a generous helping hand to our heroic brother who is striving so manfully to give the people there the bread of life.

The Proposed French Mission.—So far, in our missionary operations, we feel that we have been singularly fortunate in procuring the right persons as our missionaries. We are impressed with the conviction that in this matter we have been guided by an overruling Providence. When we made *our* selection of men and urged them to go and occupy the fields intended for them, in every case there was something that hindered, and none of those selected were able to go, or else we found that we were unable to send them. But the men who came and said, *send us*, are the only ones that have been provided for, and these are now doing splendid service for Christ. You ought not to be astonished if this fact has had its influence on the minds of the Board, and hence we are beginning to believe that the only persons fitted for the self-denial and holy consecration involved in true missionary work are those who *offer themselves voluntarily to the Lord.*

This feeling has had much to do in our selection of brother Jules DeLaunay and his wife for the proposed French mission. We did not

seek them for the mission, they sought the work from us. We did not ask them to go, but they said, send us, and by the blessing of God we will carry the pure Gospel to the perishing millions of France. We were at once deeply interested in this mission. We thought we saw the opening of Providence for a grand work to be accomplished. We know that France is just now passing through a transition state, both politically and religiously; and we know, furthermore, that such a time is highly propitious for the introduction of our plea, Hence we at once began an earnest investigation as to the propriety and feasibility of the French mission.

In corresponding with brother De Launay, it was found that for nine or ten years he had sympathized with the main features of our religious position, and had only stumbled for a time at immersion. But he finally gave up that point, and was accordingly immersed, about two years ago, by a Baptist minister, near Providence, Rhode Island. With all proper evidence of his Christian character and faithfulness as a servant of Christ, he presented himself to the Central Christian Church of the city of Cincinnati, and was received into the fellowship of that congregation. His wife, who had previously been an Episcopalian, after having been immersed, was received at the same time with her husband. As these persons had had little acquaintanee among our brethren, and as we were not willing to send them on so important a mission immediately after their coming among us, and as our funds did not justify the beginning of the mission without a special interest awakened in its behalf, we deemed it proper to send them forth among our brethren that the brethren might the better judge of their qualifications for the work, while at the same time we could ascertain what support the mission would likely receive. Accordingly, brother De Launay and his wife made a short tour through parts of Kentucky and Indiana, with, we are sorry to say, very meager immediate results, but with much encouragement at many points with reference to the support of the mission, should they enter upen it. As already intimated, one object we had in view was to give the brethren themselves an opportunity to become acquainted with brother and sister De Launay, and thereby help us to determine their qualifications for the proposed mission. It is due to you and to them to state frankly that our advices from the brethren where they have traveled are somewhat conflicting. In many places they were received with even enthusiasm; at other points the brethren were somewhat doubtful; while in a few places they were treated almost rudely.

While it is for you to determine what shall be done in the matter, it is ours to simply state the facts. Still we could not do justice to our own convictions, nor to brother De Launay, without saying that we have heard nothing in any way affecting his Christian character, and we think whatever prejudice there may have been against him arose simply from the fact that he is a Frenchman. Many of our brethren are peculiar in one respect: they seem to believe that the Gospel is chiefly for American-born citizens, though an Englishman may occasionally be converted to Christ; but as for other people, they are not expected to have any part or lot in the matter, at least until the millennium period, and at that time everybody is expected to speak the English language. During the present days of darkness and struggle it is considered rather inpertinent in a German or a Frenchman to assume that he knows anything about Christianity, or that he can ever be of any use in the Lord's vineyard. It might help these over sensitive English-speaking people to remember that the Frenchman is liable to have precisely the same opinion about them.

But seriously, the objections that have come to us concerning brother De Launay are simply trivial, and if they prove anything, they prove his eminent fitness for the work for which he is proposed. He is not expected to preach the Gospel in English,, nor to Englishmen, but to preach it in French and to Frenchmen—to preach it to his own native people who are now begging for the pure bread of life. Who can do this so well as one thoroughly acquainted with the language, the habits and customs of the people? Hence, what in fact seems to be to many professor De Launay's unfitness for the mission, may be precisely the very thing that is necessary to his success. At any rate, this is the way we have regarded the matter.

We have thought it proper to give you this somewhat extended notice of the proposed French mission, because we wish you to know the exact facts in the case, so that you may, at this Convention, if possible, decide what shall be done. We refer the whole matter to you, and trust that in the Providence of God you will come to such conclusions as will honor the name of the Master and assist in the glorious work of converting the world.

WHAT NEXT?

It is useless to consume your time with platitudes concerning the importance of missionary work. We need only say there never was a time when foreign missionary labor promised more important returns than at the present. The fields are indeed ripe for the harvest, but the laborers are yet comparatively few. So far, we, as a people, have three foreign missions in successful operation. But is this all? We repeat the question, *Is this all?* With a brotherhood numbering five hundred thousand communicants, sharing largely with other religious societies the wealth and intelligence of this country, holding firmly the doctrine that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, and rejecting all humanisms in religion, we stand before the world to-day with only three foreign missions as evidence of our faith in the great plea that we make. Again let us ask, *Is this all we have to show in proof of our desire to convert the world to Christ?* Well may we ask the question, "What do we more than others?" Or we might ask the question very differently, and yet blush at the answer we are compelled to give. Let us try another form of this question and see how we stand. *Are we doing as well as others?* Let the answers that come from Japan, from China, from India, from Africa, in fact, from everywhere, except this country, echo and re-echo through our heedless ears until we have awakened from our lethargy and have entered upon a work somewhat worthy of the great cause we plead.

But we think we hear some one responding to all this with that oft repeated cry, "We have the truth," "we have the truth," "we have the truth." Of course we have the truth, and just as certainly as we have it, we are this day *keeping it to ourselves.* It may be that we are not trying to do this, but we are clearly not trying to give it to others. Shall this state of things continue? Is there to be no end to our mere professions while the world remains without God and without hope? Brethren, are we paralyzed by our endless discussion of methods? Has life left us, except when the ghosts of "plans" flit across our vision? Or is it impossible for us to get up any enthusiasm, except in cases where some personal interests are involved? Where is the benevolence of the Gospel? Where the unselfishness of Christian devotion? Where are the sacrifices of self-denial? We are afraid that it is largely true now as in the days of Paul: "all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's."

But is there no help for this state of things? Is there no balm in

Gilead for the disease which seems to be preying upon the very vitals of our people? We offer the following suggestions, not without hope that something may be accomplished:

1. Let every person who is now a member of our Society, or who may become a member, see to it that during the current missionary year he will secure some one else as a member, contributing equally with himself. If this suggestion were faithfully heeded, and there is no reason why it should not be, we could more than double our usefulness in a year without the aid of paid agents. This is not asking an impossible thing of any one, and we ask it of those who have already contributed to our funds, because we assume that they are more interested in our work than any one else.

2. Let our preachers everywhere, who are not wholly indifferent to the conversion of the world, preach at least one sermon during the year on the subject of Foreign Missions, and at the conclusion of the sermon take up a collection and subscriptions for the Society. This will do the preachers themselves good. A well-matured sermon on the subject we propose would put a new spirit into their hearts and give them new hopes for their work at home; for a preacher that has not a missionary spirit is, in fact, no preacher at all, or rather worse than none, for he will spoil a field that might be successfully cultivated by some one else. Then let the preachers see to it that this is a work for which they are to be held largely accountable, both here and at the great judgment day. Let them understand that the best way to help their own work at home is to get their churches deeply interested in foreign missions. And as the only way to get the churches properly interested in foreign missions is to get them to liberally contribute to their support, it follows that every preacher should not fail to secure from his congregation a generous contribution to our Society.

3. We need more prayer and less discussion concerning our missionary work. We have been too self-reliant, as well as too selfish. We have trusted too much to our own wisdom and not enough to that wisdom which comes down from above, which is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercey and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." And in order that we may have this wisdom, we need to ask for it; for if we ask, we shall receive; if we seek, we shall find; if we knock, it shall be opened unto us. In a word, we need a more prayerful spirit pervading all our churches and all our conventions with respect especially to missionary work. In our thinking, in our planning, in our contributions, and in our working, we may not need less business than we have, but we clearly need more religion, more of the Divine Spirit, more consecration, more real unction from on high. And when the churches and the ministry everwhere shall begin to cry mightily unto God by day and by night for the upbuilding of the waste places of Zion and the spread of the glorious Gospel of Christ, then and not until then, shall we hope for sueh showers of blessing as will gladden our drooping hearts and being growth and vigor again to the cause with which we have identified our present and eternal interests.

W. T. MOORE, *Cor. Secretary.*

On motion, Resolved, That Committees be appointed to whom special features of our work shall be referred for consideration and report.

The President appointed the following Committees:

French Mission.—A. I. Hobbs, J. H. Garrison, J. A. Toof.

English Mission.—W. K. Pendleton, J. C. Reynolds, J. M. Trible.

Danish Mission.—Z. T. Sweeney, Ira J. Chase, J. H. Hardin.

Finance Committee.—R. M. Bishop, H. B. Goe, Thos. Munnell.

Sister DeLauney addressed the Convention on the subject of Missions, and in an interesting paper impressed the audience that her heart is in this work.

Some time was now spent in obtaining new members, during which sister Sarah L. Eastin sent up a gold watch she was wearing as an offering to the mission fund. This incident stirred the hearts of the assembly, and brother Hobbs moved that we take up a collection to raise $100. Carried.

After the collection was counted, it was found that we had over $100, and brother R. M. Bishop offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That sister Sarah L. Eastin, of Missouri, be appointed a Life Member of this Society, and that the watch be returned to her.

The watch being offered to sister Eastin, she declined to receive it.

On motion, Resolved, That a standing committee of three be appointed and known as the Bequest and Donation Committee, one member to be elected for three years, one for two years, and one for one year.

Adjourned to 7 P. M. Dismissed by prayer by offered brother D. R. Lucas.

EVENING SESSION.

The Convention met at 7 o'clock, P. M., and spent some time in prayers and exhortations by a number of brethren, the meeting being led by brother Cake. The Society now resumed its business, Isaac Errett presiding.

R. M. Bishop reported on Finance as follows, which was adopted:—

FINANCE REPORT.

The Committee on Finances beg leave to report:

We are aware of the great importance of having a sound financial basis for our foreign missionary work, and of having the means to greatly enlarge our operations. The stringency of the times, we hope, will soon relax, so that the labors of a suitable agent in the field may hereafter be able to gather larger sums than in the past. But in our judgment the selection of such agent ought to be left with the Executive Committee. Few men are by nature and habits calculated to be successful solicitors, and it will require due deliberation and care. We therefore recommend that,

1. The Executive Committee use their discretion as to putting a financial agent into the field at such time as may seem to them best.

2. That all the members of the society interest themselves in securing memberships and in raising money in their own congregations.

R. M. BISHOP,
H. B. GOE,
THOS. MUNNELL, } *Committee.*

A. I. Hobbs presented report of Committee on the French Mission. Adopted.

FRENCH MISSION.

Your committee to whom was referred so much of the Board's report as relates to the French mission beg leave to submit the following:

We fully approve the caution of the Board in refusing to undertake the establishment of more foreign missions than our funds will justify. But we recommend the establishment of a mission in France so soon as there appears to be a reasonable assurance of ability to sustain it and suitable persons may be found for the work. We do not feel ourselves capable of deciding that the Board should now, or in the near future, send the persons whose names have been so favorably mentioned, but we are free to say that so far as is discoverable, the indications of divine Providence seem to point to so desirable an end.

A. I. HOBBS,
J. H. GARRISON,
J. T. TOOF. } *Committee.*

Z. T. Sweeney made a verbal report on the Danish Mission, urging that its success so far fully justified our earnest support.

W. K. Pendleton presented the report on the English Mission, which was adopied:—

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ENGLISH MISSION.

Your Committee to whom was referred so much of the Report of the Corresponding Secretary as refers to the English mission, report that this mission has been so far, one of the most gratifying and encouraging works undertaken by the Board. The success of Bro. H. S. Earl, not only calls for our profoundest gratitude to the Father of all mercies, but should excite us to renewed diligence in the cultivation of this field. The enthusiastic and liberal spirit in which our dear Brother Coop has voluntarily offered to meet us in co-operation, should inspire us with the noble emulation, to raise at once the means necessary to send to the help of Bro. Earl another Evangelist

for the English mission. It would be a mortifying, if not a humiliating fact, if our entire American brotherhood could not be induced to do for this good and approved work the double of what one brother alone proposes to throw into a common fund with us for the preaching of the apostolic Gospel in England.

It seems as if the unexpected success of Bro. Earl and the surprising liberality of Bro. Coop, were providential calls to us to open our hearts in a bountiful outpouring for the support and enlargement of this English mission. We know that the Board entered upon the work scarcely assured whether the Lord would bless it or not, and that our devoted brother Earl threw his noble heart into it without definite promises of support, and many other circumstances combine to satisfy us that it has been by the guidance and impulse of a special Providence, that we have been led into it thus far. We can not, without the most ungrateful neglect of these marked intimations of the divine will concerning this mission, either abandon or neglect it, therefore,

Resolved, That we send our hearty appreciation in greeting to Bro. Earl for the success of his faithful labors, and our grateful acknowledgments to Bro. Coop for his generous proffer of co-operation, with the assurance to both that we will use our most earnest efforts to meet to the fullest extent; this open call of Providence upon us to provide liberally for the enlarged support of the English mission.

W. K. PENDLETON,
J. C. REYNOLDS,
J. M. TRIBLE, } *Committee.*

Joseph F. Wright presented the report on Nomination of Officers. Adopted.

NOMINATIONS.

Your Committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year, beg leave to report as follows:

President—Isaac Errett, of Ohio.

Vice-Presidents—James Challen, of Kentucky; A. I. Hobbs, of Illinois; W. T. Moore, of Ohio.

Recording Secretary—James Leslie, of Ohio.

Treasurer—W. S. Dickinson, of Ohio.

Cor. Secretary.—For this place we are unable to make a recommendation, and respectfully recommend that the selection of this officer be referred to the Executive Committee.

Committee on Bequests—R. M. Bishop, of Ohio, for 3 years; Joseph F. Wright, of Ohio, for 2 years; H. B. Goe, of Penn. for 1 year.

We further recommend that the Board shall appoint a Financial Agent when, in their judgment, the work shall require and the means at their command shall warrant.

JOSEPH F. WRIGHT, F. M. GREEN,
N. L. HAYNES, W. K. PENDLETON } *Committee.*
A. M. ATKINSON,

Brother DeLaunay made a short address on Missions, but especially having reference to a mission in France, in which he and sister DeLaunay are deeply interested, and where they are ready to go, if it is possible for the Society to establish a new mission at this time.

H. B. Goe moved that the address of sister De Launay be published in the *Christian Standard*. Carried.

On motion, adjourned.

JAMES LESLIE, *Recording Secretary.*

RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR.

LIFE DIRECTORS.	
Isaac Errett	$100 00
W. S. Dickinson	200 00
B. B. Tyler	50 00
O. A. Bartholomew	20 00
LIFE MEMBERS.	
U. C. Brewer	5 00
W. T. Baker	25 00
E. Williams	20 00
O. F. Lane	15 00
W. S. Hayden	20 00
M. L. Streator	20 00
J. P. Torbitt	40 00
J. F. Wright	20 00
James Leslie	20 00
W. B. Emmal	40 00
Jacob Burnet	20 00
G. W. Lewis	20 00
H. V. Oliver	20 00
ANNUAL MEMBERS.	
N. S. Haynes	10 00
A. M. Atkinson	20 00
J. C. Keith	10 00
N. Y. City S. S	25 00
J. C. Goodrich	10 00
MISCELLANEOUS.	
John Kirk	25 00
New Liberty, Ky	26 30
W. F. Moore	3 00
Mrs. T. Crane	5 00
A brother in Christ	3 00
F. M. Kirkham	10 00
Lexington, Ky	37 00
Ghent, Ky	16 00
Crab Orchard, Ky	5 50
W. T. Sellers	2 00
Theodore Walter	1 00
Mount Sterling, Ky	57 50
Germantown, Ky	18 50
Allegheny, Pa	109 50
Mount Sterling, Ky	20 00
Hazlewood, Pa	15 00
Lexington, Ky	10 00
Danville, Ky. G. W. Givens	20 00
Hustonville, Ky	1 50
T. P. Hill	2 00
Ghent, Ky	15 00
Warsaw, Ky	10 70
do	2 50
Versailles, Ky	6 50
Richard Crutcher	10 00
Mount Pleasant, Ky	12 00
Union City, Ky	12 25
Petersburg, Ky	18 00
J. W. Haymaker	10 00
White's Run, Ky	8 50
Hustonville, Ky	9 00
Z. F. Smith	1 53
Florence, Ky	10 00
Richmond, Ky	7 80
P. Boulden	1 00
Mrs. Songanker	1 00
R. R. Myall	1 00
E. E. Pearce	5 00
W. F. Ramsey	2 00
B. F. Alford	3 00
D. W. Vandaveer	3 00
J. S. Murphy	3 00
James Dudderor	3 00
Finley Smock	1 50
D. Goshon	50
I. Martz	2 00
Spuire Newby	2 00
M. Martz	2 00
Brother Mann	40
Mrs. Jones	25
Dr. Houser	50
A. B. Walker	5 00
J. H. Rhorer	5 00
W. B. Wilson	2 00
Mrs M. Wire	2 00
Mrs. Colkins	1 00
S. K. Pottinger	5 00
Whitehead	50
Ireland	75
J. S. Boyd	50
LaPorte, Ind	3 25
Anna Troutman	20 00

Mortonsville, Ky	5 00
Mrs. Owsley	1 00
J. J. Frost	3 00
J. S. Woolfolk	10 00
B. F. Roberts	2 50
Thomas Hudson	2 00
H. W. White	5 00
F. H. Browar	3 00
J. T. Patterson	5 00
S Wolverton	3 00
E. H. Caldwell	12 00
John S ork	20 00
D. P. Coffman	2 00
G. B. Fortner	5 00
Hamilton, Ohio	10 00
W. H. Haskell	2 00
George Lobingier for West Rupert Church	14 50
Mrs. C. M. Braxton	50
J. F. Callahan	5 00
Liberty, Ill	10 00
Nora Sherwood	2 00
A. Va. Disciple	5 00
Pittsfield. Ill	2 00
Mrs. Wm. Parker	1 00
Elizabeth Davidson	5 00
A Sister	1 00
W. H. Haskell	2 00
W. I. White	3 00
P. C. Gray	5 00
John S. Gray	5 00
Minn. Miss. Convention	25 00
E. A. Armstrong	1 00
S. J. Talbott	1 00
Julia Howe	1 00
Julia Neal	1 00
T. C. H. Vance	2 00
T. M. Stephenson	1 00
R. W. Botts	5 00
J. A. Mathers	1 00
J. V. See	2 00
Harry Ogden	1 00
H. Kimbrough	2 00
B. W. & Silas Matthews	3 00
John McKee	2 00
B. S. Adair	5 00
V. C. Reed	3 00
H W. Hall	2 00
M. Hopkins	2 00
J. B. Linnville	2 00
S. Robertson	1 00
W. Dinsmore	2 00
J. B. Jones	10 00
T. F. Harges	10 00
Joseph King	2 00
Mary Ware	5 00
E. Batson	2 00
Annie Askins	10 00
W. Crutcher	10 00
P. South	10 00
W. E. Bailey	2 00
R. H. Bailey	1 00
Harry Shaw	1 50
H. H. White	5 00
A. H. Shropshier	5 00
W. H. McMillen	20 00
W. R. Robinson	1 00
S. K. Murton	2 00
A. G. Walters	5 75
Steubenville, Ohio	35
Germantown, Ky., Elder.	2 00
Shelbyville, Ky	5 30
Clealland	1 00
Shaffer	1 00
Chinn	50
Simpsonville, Ky	1 00
R. E. Arrington	5 00
H. Troutman	1 00
W. C. Bier	2 00
J. T. Waters	1 00
A. Burchard	1 00
Baltimore, Md	2 00
15th st., Louisville	9 00
Edinburg, Ind	4 20
Winchester, Ky	17 00
Clarksburg, Ind	4 20
Covington, Ky	6 10
W. T. Moore	15 32
Central S. S., Cincinnati	50 00
Am'ts credited in minutes of last year, rec'd in treasury this year	392 50

Amounts Received during the Meeting at St Louis and between that time and December 11, 1877.

H. B. Goe	100 00
T. Munnell	15 00
A. S. Hale	20 00
W. K. Pendleton	20 00
J. Laws	20 00
J. Z. Tyler	20 00
J. C. Reynolds	10 00
R. Moffett	20 00
J. T. Toof	20 00
A. I. Hobbs	20 00
J. H. Hardin	20 00
Ira J. Chase	10 00
J. H. Duncan	10 00
Lorinda Goe	100 0
Mrs. Sarah Jamison	43 40
Rose C. Goe	100 00
A. M. Atkinson	10 00
J. A. Williams	10 00
G. W. Longan	10 0
For Sarah F. Easton	120 60
T. A. Russell	5 00
Sister	1 00

J. C. Jones	2 00
R. J. Dyas	5 00
William Henry	2 00
Cash	90
Dayton, Ohio	40 00
Payson, Ill.	10 00
H. Atkinson	10 00
B. W. Henry	20 00
E. B. Stevens	20 00
Mrs. A. Bogwell	10 00
J. Hugely	10 00
Mrs. C. S. Rowly	5 00
Cash	10 65
M. Nesbitt	10 00
Washington, D. C.	43 75
Ellen Ward	20 00
Mrs. M. C. Dunsford	50 00
Mrs. W. H. Pittman	10 00
Wilmington, Ohio	3 23
A. Virginia Disciple	5 00
A. Poorman	5 00
Shelbyville, Ind	
Mrs. M. Musselman	
George Darsie	20 00
J. F. Rowe	10 00
Annie M. Wadsworth	1 00
W. R. Couch	20 00
Harvey Deer	8 00
George Wree	7 00
J. M. Trible	10 00
J. B. Thomas	10 00

MINUTES

OF THE

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

ST. LOUIS, MO., October 27, 1377.

The General Christian Sunday School Convention met in the Central Christian Church, corner Washington Avenue and Twenty-third street, at the above named time, at 10 o'clock A. M. The Convention was called to order by the President, A. I. Hobbs, of Illinois, who stated that all persons in attendance upon the General Christian Missionary Convention would be considered delegates to this assembly, and were invited to participate in its proceedings.

The report of the General Sunday School Secretary, F. M. Green, of Ohio, was then read as follows:—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL SECRETARY,

Dear Brethren:—Of the Bible it is said: It has neither preface nor introduction.

Nor has it definitions, postulates, axioms, or elementary theories on which to build its science of theology, or prepare its students for its higher revelations or developments.

Its first words bring us face to face with eternity and divinity, and solve the perplexing problem of the origin of matter and of man.

It has been suggested that these features ought to characterize a report on Sunday schools "in the beginning." I therefore without delay invite your attention to some facts which have accumulated upon this question during the year just closed.

IN GENERAL.

The last statistical report upon Sunday schools, prepared by E. Payson Porter, of Chicago, statistical secretary of the International Sunday School Convention, and as thorough and correct as any document of that kind can well be, reveals the fact that there were in the United States in 1875, 69,871 Sunday schools; 753,060 officers and teachers; and 5,790,683 scholars, making a total of 6,543,708 officers, teachers, and scholars.

It is estimated that there has been an increase during the two years since that report was made, of not less than 500,000 persons to the

Sunday schools of the United States, making a grand total of 7,000,000 persons in the Sunday schools of our own country.

The Sunday schools of Canada numbered at that time 4,401, with 35,745 officers and teachers, and 271.381 scholars—a total of 307,126.

Some estimate of the magnitude of the Sunday school interests on the American continent can be gained by these figures.

In the lands over the sea much interest is also manifested in the same direction. And it is estimated, and that from a basis of very full returns, that nearly 6,000,000 of people are using what are known as the International Series of Bible Lessons, at this time.

These facts ought to interest us, to say the least. And when it is known that nearly every religious body of this country and in other countries also, is stirred to the very depths of its zeal and intelligence in behalf of the children of this generation, that they may be trained into God-fearing men and women, intelligent in the knowledge of the word of God, cultured and disciplined for active Christian life and labor, it appears to me that we can not neglect so great an agency without jeopardizing our existence as a religious people with a distincttive plea and a particular mission. There are three things that we ought to do:

1. *Hold on* to the word of God with the mightiest grip and the most dauntless determination—never surrender that.

2. If we have objections to the Sunday school agency, or are not clear as to the position which it should have in our hearts and lives, *hold in* our objections until we are clear upon the question, "lest haply we may be found fighting against God."

3. And if we really have the brave, manly, Christian purposes and desires for which I give credit to-day—then *hold out* to the end.

GENERAL WORK.

There have been numerous large gatherings of Sunday school workers during the past year year.

The following synopsis prepared for the columns of the *Sunday School World*, will give you a fair idea of the general field work:

"Sunday school congresses, encampments, assemblies and parliaments followed the State conventions of May, June and July. The most important in its attractions, numbers and array of Sunday school talent was, of course, Chautauqua. Opening on Aug. 7 with congratulatory addresses from Rev. Dr. Vincent. the conductor, Lewis Miller, Rev. J. A. Worden, of Lakeside Assembly; Amos Shinkle of Loveland Encampment; Rev. W. F. Crafts, of Thousand Isles Parliament; C. B. Stout, of Pitman Grove Assembly; it had a large attendance, and continued to carry out the programme of conferences, normal classes, lectures, Greek and Hebrew classes, etc., on successive days, the special and unusual attractions being lectures by Rev. Joseph Cook, and singing by Philip Phillips, who has lately returned from "singing round the world." The Round Lake Congress (N. Y.) was held in July, with Rev. Alfred Taylor, conductor, and Bishop Gilbert Haven, Rev. Dr. T. L. Cuyler, Rev. J. M. Freeman, Rev. Dr. Tiffany and others as instructors and lecturers, who gave the usual amount of Sunday school hints and helps. The Lake Blnff Assembly, near Chicago, offered the many brilliant attractions which the West knows how to gather. Dr. Vincent was conductor, and was aided by Rev. Joseph Cook, Rev. Dr. Deems, Revs. Peltz, Crafts, Gilbert, and by Messrs. Hazard, Jacobs, Stout, Sherwin, Beard, Mrs. Crafts, Mrs. Miller and others, but owing to the railroad and other difficulties, it is reported to have secured an attendance altogether below its merits and the attractions it offered.

The Petosky or Bay View (Mich.) Congress, July 24–31, was a successful attempt to hold a good Sunday school institute in the frontier woods. The leader, Rev. J. L. Hurlbut, naively reports in *The Sunday School Times* that he had the Chautauqua course of study, the Chautauqua enthusiasm and industry, but not the Chautauqua crowd. The Lakeside Encampment, near Sandusko, O., was held for ten days (July 10–20). with Rev. J. A. Worden for conductor, aided by Rev. J. A. Trimble, Mrs. Crafts, Mrs, Alden, Revs. F. M. Green, W. F. Crafts, Drs. Vincent, G. P. Hays, H. C. Haydn, and others as instructors, and gave great satisfaction to the attending members. The Loveland Encampment, near Cincinnati, O., (July 24 to Aug. 2), with J. E. Gilbert as superintendent, reported an attendance of sixty speakers and five thousand members. The singing was represented by such able leaders as Profs. Doane, Sherwin and O'Kane; the instruction by such workers as Rev. Drs. C. H, Cushing, E. B. Andrews, J. L. McKee, C. H. Payne, Mrs. Alden, Amos Shinkle and J. E. Gilbert.

I had the pleasure of participating as one of the instructors at Lakeside and Loveland for sixteen days, and of attending the Chautauqua Assembly for one day.

There are many things connected with these gatherings which would be of value for you to know, and a pleasure for me to give, but the limits of my report forbid it.

Suffice it to say that these great gatherings need not in my judgment be shunned by any of us even if we do hold tenaciously to the grand sentiment of the apostle—"Sound in doctrine, sound in faith, sound in patience, sound in charity."

OUR OWN WORK.

In our own particular field of labor our Sunday school workers have not been idle. Conventions, institutes, and normal classes have been held numerously and widely.

Soon after the adjournment of the General Convention at Richmond, Va.. the general secretary met about one hundred Sunday school workers from all parts of the country, at Philadelphia, Pa. It was a meeting full of interest and profit to all concerned.

It was not unworthy of the name of a National Christian Sunday School Convention.

Ohio held its State Convention in May at East Cleveland, Ohio, in connection with the annual meeting of the O. C. M. Society,

An interesting convention and institute was held at Union City, Indiana, which was one of the best meetings of the year.

There were present from Ohio 14 preachers, 15 superintendents, 9 teachers and 38 scholars. From Indiana, 26 preachers, 25 superintendents, 56 teachers and 88 scholars—a grand total of 281.

Kentucky held a general State Convention in June at Louisville, and under the leadership of C. C. Cline the State has been canvassed as no other State has been canvassed during the year.

The State is foremost to-day in its general Sunday school work; and the disciples in Kentucky are the only religious people that have a Sunday school evangelist in the field all the time.

Missouri held its State Convention at Carrollton in May. Bro. Burns and others say it was a great success.

Indiana held its State Convention at Rushville early in August. It was not so large as some former ones held in the State, but it was equal to the best in its practical value.

Iowa held its State Convention at Oskaloosa. This was pronounced by competent judges a success.

Illinois held a State Convention in Springfield, which was well attended, and decided measures were taken to push on the work more efficiently than ever in that mighty State.

Neither has West Virginia been idle. Quite a number of local institutes have been held in the State, and a portion of the time of the State Convention was devoted to Sunday school interests.

Virginia has been unusually active during the year. Her workers are full of enthusiasm, and are determined to make an honorable record.

The General Secretary attended a convention in August in the Tidewater district. Concerning this conventiou, and other Sunday school work in Virginia, C. S. Lucas, State Evangelist, reports as follows:

"The Sunday school interest has grown rapidly and is still growing. At the Valley Convention a Sunday School Convention was held of interest, another provided for on a larger and grander scale for another year. A Sunday School Institute, conducted by F. M. Green, Kent, Ohio, was held at Tidewater Convention, that will thoroughly revolutionize the Sunday school work in that district, Several more sub-institutes will be held during the year, and a grand one is anticipated at out next Tidewater Convention, Piedmont followed with her Sunday School Convention. All these are favorable auguries of the future. There are now in Virginia 87 Sunday schools, 487 teachers, 4,285 scholars, in the congregations—besides 8 mission schools numbering 400 scholars and 40 teachers, in three of which churches are soon to be organized. The Sunday schools have raised $359."

The State Sunday school Convention for California was held at Hollister, May 29.

Besides these there is not a single State, where there is any considerable number of Disciples, in which the Sunday school work is entirely neglected. The General Secretary has traveled in four States during the year in behalf of Sunday schools, viz.: Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Virginia. He has attended fifteen conventions and institutes, at which there were present an aggregate of 384 superintendents and 1,279 teachers. He has made addresses on Sunday school topics amounting during the year to 105.

All these facts indicate an interest and progress in the right direction, and it gives me pleasure to inspire your hearts with the power of these revelations. Notwithstanding all the hindrances in our way, we have many reasons to be encouraged, and no reasons why our hearts should falter or our feet be turned in a single backward step.

The following lines, by S. P. Coleridge, embraces the exhortations which I would make to you—for I must exhort a little—in favor of the steady and unyielding progress of our work:

O'er wayward childhood wouldst thou hold firm rule
And sun thee in the light of happy faces?
Love, Hope and Patience, these must be the graces,
And in thine own heart let them first keep school;
For as old Atlas on his broad neck places
Heaven's starry globe, and there sustains it, so
Do these upbear the little world below
Of Education, Patience, Love and Hope.
Methinks I see them grouped in seemly show,
The straightened arms upraised, the palms aslope,
And robes that, touching as adown they flow,
Distinctly blend, like snow embossed in snow.

O, part them never! If Hope prostrate lie,
Love too will sink and die.
But love is subtle, and will proof derive
From her own life that Hope is yet alive,

And bending o'er with soul-transfusing eyes,
And the soft murmurs of the mother dove,
Woos back the fleeting spirit and half-supplies;
Thus Love repays to hope what Hope first gave to Love.
Yet haply there will come a weary day
When overtasked at length,
Both Love and Hope beneath the load give way;
Then with a statue's smile, a statue's strength,
Stands the mute sister, Patience, nothing loth,
And both supporting does the work of both.

I have made no effort this year to get the statistics of our schools. Neither have I sought yet to learn the increase in the circulation of our Sunday school papers and periodicals. Next year an effort will be made to have full reports on both these points.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion the following questions are submitted for your consideration:

1. The Sunday school workers of Ohio and Indiana, in attendance at East Cleveland and Union City, declared it as their judgment that a manual for normal class work and Sunday school organization management was, in view of the great interest taken in these questions, a desirable thing; and at Union City, F. M. Green was chosen to edit such a work, the retail price of which was not to exceed one dollar, provided that sufficient financial encouragement could be secured to provide against personal loss. R. Moffett and A. Wilcox, of Ohio, and S. M. Conner and W. P. Aylsworth, of Indiana, were appointed with him as an advisory committee. Owing to the financial difficulties connected with the enterprise, nothing has been done except of a preliminary character, Will the Sunday school workers here indorse the action of the above conventions and aid in the issue of such a work? A table of the general contents of such a work as is contemplated, may be found in our Sunday school report of one year ago.

2. A standing committee on Sunday school literature was appointed at Richmond, consisting of Isaac Errett, D.W. Chase, Mrs. M. R. Butler, Geo. Darsie and F. M. Green. That committee will report through its chairman. You are asked to consider that report and to decide whether such a committee shall be continued.

3. A standing committee consisting of L. L. Carpenter, W. A. Belding and N. S. Haynes was also appointed to consider the question whether it is advisable to appoint a Board of Sunday School Managers separate from the Board of Managers of the General Missionary Convention. You are asked to consider seriously the report of that committee.

4. Shall the General Sunday School Secretary be kept at work as an evangelist, doing Sunday school work wherever it is needed, and if so, how shall the means for his support be provided?

These questions are recommended for your most considerate action. Each one of them is worthy of your attention.

For five successive years I have presented to you an annual report. During all of these years I have anxiously waited for the day to dawn when our great and wide-spread brotherhood would, by its action in this convention or in some other proper way, provide for the maintenance of at least one man, whose field of labor should not be bounded by State lines, but who could "go everywhere," with your endorsement, teaching, training, and inspiring parents, and churches, and children, in all matters pertaining to Sunday school work, and to follow more and more diligently the directions of the Great Teacher, whose we profess to be, and whom we profess to serve.

It appears to me that the time has now come when we are able to take some decided action in that direction. I believe I speak from your knowledge as I do my own, when I say that we are not doing all that we are able to do in any portion of our church work. It is true, we have not been ide; it is true that we have been very active; but is it true we have "seen an end of all perfection," and that there is no forward step for us to take? Is there to be no greater development of Christian power in the wide field which we now occupy than there was a quarter of a century ago?

Mere geographic spread of "our principles" is not development. We may spread the gospel till there shall be no place without a Bible, and no place where "our plea" is unknown, and yet, as a body, be very far from the "stature of a perfect man in Christ Jesus."

Gospel preaching, teaching, and training and culture, ought never to be separated. *They must not be separated*, and if they are not separated the family, the school, the church, must receive the attention due them as the God-given agencies for the development of the religious nature.

With these forces we can hammer out on God's anvil the gold and silver threads which the Great Master will place in the seamless garment which shall be worn by the church of the first-born in heaven.

Respectfully submitted,

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 27, 1877. F. M. GREEN.

A Committee on so much of the Secretary's Report as relates to a Manual was appointed, viz.: Ira J. Chase, D. W*t* Chase, J. C. Tully, and J. H. Garrison.

Also a Committee on so much of the Report as relates to an Agent for general Sunday School work, consisting of J. H. Hardin, of Mo.; J. M. Trible, of Tenn; and J. W. Conner, of Ind.

The Standing Committee on the appointment of a Sunday School Board of Managers, reported as follows:—

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD.

Your Committee to whom was referred the question "shall we have a separate Sunday School Board?" beg leave to submit the following:

We believe the Sunday school is in fact a part and parcel of the missionary work, that the General Board should and do so esteem it, and yet the vast field which opens before us demands the appointment of a Board whose business shall be to look after the especial interests of the Sunday school, but in harmony with and auxiliary to the General Board. All of which we cheerfully submit.

L. L. CARPENTER,
W. A. BELDING, } *Committee.*

The discussion which followed was participated in by F. M. Green, of Ohio; Ira J. Chase, of Illinois; Alexander Procter, of Missouri; Geo. W. Minier, Illinois; Thomas Munnell, Kentucky; J. H. Garrison, Missouri; A. I. Hobbs, Illinois; T. P. Haley, Missouri. The report was laid on the table.

The standing committee on Sunday School Literature reported through its chairman, Isaac Errett, as follows:—

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE.

Your Committee on Sunday School Literature beg leave to report: That what attention they have been able to give to the subject of a Sunday school library has convinced them that it is at present impracticable to produce an original library such as is desired. While we have some capable writers who would be glad to engage in writing books, they are not found in sufficient numbers, nor with the necessary variety of gifts, to warrant the expectation that they would be able to meet the public want. Moreover, they require encouragement in the way of pecuniary compensation, such as we are not able to give. Then, if the manuscripts could be furnished, the responsibility of publishing could not be safely incurred without a money basis, which is at present invisible. We therefore recommend that, for the present, no further steps be taken in this direction.

The Ohio Sunday School Convention and the Indiana State Sunday School Convention which met at Union City, Ind., last Spring, gave into the hands of Bro. F. M. Green, with two assistants, the task of preparing a Sunday School Manual. The preparation of this needed book is well advanced. We recommend it to the favorable consideration of this Convention, and hope that such encouragement will be given as will secure its speedy publication.

ISAAC ERRETT,
F. M. GREEN,
D. W. CHASE, } *Committee.*

The report was referred to the Committee previously appointed at this session on "A Sunday School Manual."

The Committee on Corresponding Secretary submitted their report, which was adopted:—

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Your Committee to whom was referred that part of the Corresponding Secretary's Report which refers to the continuance of a Sunday School Secretary, beg leave to recommend that such Sunday School Secretary be kept in the field as during the past year, and that the provision for his support be left to the discretion of the General Board.

J. H. HARDIN,
J. M. TRIBLE,
JAS. W. CONNER, } *Committee.*

The thanks of this Convention were tendered to F. M. Green for his energetic and efficient services as General Sunday School Secretary during the past year—pending which motion very appropriate remarks were made by R. M. Bishop, of Ohio; Isaac Errett, Ohio; F. M. Drake, Iowa.

Sister A. M. Atkinson, of Indiana, of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, stated that in behalf of said Board, and by its direction, she came to us bearing their Christian greetings. She also made a statement regarding their Sunday School work in Jamaica.

It was ordered that W. K. Pendleton be appointed to bear our greetings to the sisters in response to their message by sister

Atkinson, and that he express to them our sympathy with, and our appreciation of their work.

The following was offered by W. K. Pendleton :—

That there be created a Board of the Convention, to consist of five members, to be called "The Sunday School Board," whose duty it shall be to superintend and promote our Sunday School work and literature, and report regularly to the Convention.

That there shall be a Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday School Board, to be appointed at the regular meetings of the Convention, who shall be our general agent under the direction of the Board, to labor in the interest of Sunday Schools among the churches, and to promote unity and officiency of method in this important work.

This was presented as a recommendation to the General Convention. The discussion which followed was participated in by W. K. Pendleton, R. M. Bishop, W. T. Moore, S. Tomlinson, T. Munnell, F. M. Green, and J. B. Cleaver. This reference was carried.

The Committee to whom was referred that portion of the Corresponding Secretary's Report, and also that portion of the report of the Committee on Sunday School Literature, relating to the publication of a Sunday School Manual, reported as follows :—

1. We are heartily in favor of such a book being published, and cordially endorse the recommendations of the Conventions referred to, held at Cleveland, Ohio, and Union City, Ind.
2. We recommend that brother Green advertise for subscribers for the book in our religious papers, and proceed with its publication as soon as a sufficient number shall have been secured to insure him against financial loss.

The report was made the special order for 1.30 P. M.

Adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After singing, and prayer by J. G. Waggoner, of Illinois, the report laid over from the morning session was taken up and discussed by W. T. Moore, F. M. Green, J. M. Conner, and D. R. Lucas. The report was adopted.

J. B. Cleaver, of Indiana, offered the following, which was adopted, viz.: *Resolved*, That this Convention recommend to

the State Sunday School Conventions of the several States, that they raise a fund, in amount (if possible) one dollar at least for each Sunday school in their jurisdiction; said fund to be employed in the support of general Sunday school work, under the direction of this Convention.

Adjourned.

A. I. HOBBS, *President.*

N. S. HAYNES, *Secretary.*

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This organization shall be called the *General Christian Missionary Convention.*

ART. II. Its objects shall be the spread of the gospel in this and in other lands, according to the following plan of church co-operation.

Section 1. (*a*) There shall be a General Board and Corresponding Secretary.

(*b*) A Board and Corresponding Secretary for each State to co-operate with the General Board.

(*c*) District Boards in each State, and a Secretary in each District, whose duty it shall be to visit all the churches in his district in order to induce them to accept the missionary work as a part of their Christian duty.

Sec. 2. There shall be an annual convention in each district, the business of which shall be transacted by messengers appointed by the churches; an annual convention in each State, the business of which shall be conducted by messengers sent from the churches of the State, it being understood, however, that two or more churches, or all the churches of a district, may be represented by messengers mutually agreed upon; and an annual general convention, the business of which shall be conducted by messengers from the State conventions.

Sec. 3. The General Convention shall annually appoint nine brethren, who, together with the Corresponding Secretaries of the States and the Presidents of the State Boards, shall constitute a General Board, who shall meet anuually to transact the general missionary business, and appoint a committee of five to superintend the work in the intervals between their annnal meetings.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the General Board and Corresponding Secretary to provide for and superintend missionary operations in destitute places not actually in State and district organizations, and to promote the harmonious co-operation of all the State and District Boards and Conventions.

Sec. 5. There shall be also a State Board and Corresponding Secretary in each of the States, elected annually by the messengers sent to the State Convention, and it shall be the duty of said Boards and Secretaries to manage the missionary interests in their respective States in harmony with the system of general co-operation.

Sec. 6. Each State shall be divided into districts of suitable limits by the State Board; the messengers from the churches of each district shall elect, at their annual conventions, a Board and a Secretary; and the business of each Secretary shall be to visit all the churches in his districts, and in co-operation with their own officers, induce them to contribute and send to the District Treasurer money for the support of missions.

Sec. 7. Each church, over and above the sums it may contribute for missionary work under its immediate control, shall give a pledge to pay annually to its District Treasurer a definite sum for other missionary work, and that one-half of such contributions may be under the control of the District Boards for missionary work in the districts, the other half to be sent to the State Board, to be divided equally between it and the General Board for their respective works; but this recommendation is not to be considered as precluding a different distribution of funds when the church contributing shall so decide.

Sec. 8. It shall be the duties of the Corresponding Secretaries of the General Board, the State Boards and District Boards, respectively, and of such other agents as the General Board may employ, to procure special contributions under the direction of the General Board, and used by it for the missionary work committed to their management.

Sec. 9. The churches shall send reports to the District Boards in time for District Conventions; the district shall send up reports to the State Boards in time for the State Conventions, and the State Boards shall send up reports to the General Board in time for the General Conventions, so that a report of all our missionary operations may appear in the Minutes of the General Convention.

Sec. 10. Each State Convention shall be entitled to two delegates in the General Convention, and to one additional delegate for every five thousand Disciples in the State.

ART. III. The officers of this Convention shall consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, an Auditor, and three Recording Secretaries, who shall be chosen annually, and shall continue in office till their successors are elected.

ART. IV. The Treasurer shall be required to give bonds for such an amount as the Committee of five may determine.

ART. V. Seven members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. The Committee of five shall live in or near Cincinnati.

ART. VI. All life directors and life members of the American Christian Missionary Society shall be members of this Convention.

ART. VII. The annual meetings of this Convention shall be held in Cincinnati, on Thursday, at 2 P. M., after the third Lord's day in October, or at such other time and place as shall have been designated at a previous meeting.

ART. VIII. This Constitution may be altered by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting of the Convention, but a year's notice of said change must be given, unless it is recommended by the Board.

BY-LAW—ADOPTED AT INDIANAPOLIS, 1870.

Resolved. That all members of the Church of Christ, who may attend the annual meetings of the "General Convention," shall be entitled to participate in its deliberations; and this is hereby adopted as a by-law of this Constitution.

COLLEGE STATISTICS.

CORPORATE NAME.	LOCATION.	When found-ed.	Whole No. of Stu-dents.	No. last year.	NAMES OF PRESIDENTS.	Value of prop-erty.	Am'nt of Endow-ment.
Bethany College	Bethany, W. Virginia	1841	4004	151	Alexander Campbell, W. K. Pendleton	$150,000	$100,000
Kentucky Female Orphan School,	Midway. Kentucky	1849	.....	82	R. A. Broadhurst, Belle Fitzpatrick	55,540	98,620
Hiram Follege	Hiram, Ohio	1850	6000	179	S. E. Shepard, J. M. Atwater, B. A. Hinsdale	40,000	60,000
Christian Female College	Columbia, Missouri	1851	1500	119	Jno. A. Williams, L. B. Wilkes, J. K. Rogers	50,000	.....
Christian University	Canton, Missouri	1853	1680	140	Jas. Shannon, B. H. Smith, W. H. Hopson	75,000	6,000
Abingdon College	Abingdon, Illinois	1853	3800	106	P. H. Murphy, J. W. Butler, Oval Firky, Clark Braden.	50,000	20,000
Eureka College	Eureka, Illinois	1854	3000	213	W. Brown, G. Callender, C. L. Loos, B. W. Johnson, H.W.Everest, A.M.Weston, B.J.Radford	42,000	34,000
Clay Seminary	Liberty, Missouri	1854	300	75	A. B. Jones	7,500	.....
Patterson Female Institute	N. Middletown, Ky	1854	2194	107	J T. Patterson	20,000	.....
N. W. Christian University	Indianapolis, Ind	1854	4677	130	Jno. Young, S. K. Hoshour, A. R. Benton, W. F. Black, O. A. Burgess.	500,000	300,000
Kentucky University	Lexington, Ky	1855	6536	.....	J. B. Bowman, Regent	300,000	433 700
Oskaloosa College	Oskaloosa, Iowa	1856	3000	175	G. T. Carpenter, A. F. Ross, B. W. Johnson, F. M. Bruner, S. P. Lucy	50,000	40,000
The Daughters College	Harrodsburg, Ky	1856	3000	150	John Aug. Williams	40,000	.....
Madison Female Institute	Richmond, Ky	1856	.....	100	S. G. Mullins, A. B. Jones, W. B. Smith, O. P. Miller, B. J. Pinkerton.	40,000	.....
Christian College	Hustonville, Ky	1857	1200	70	W. L.Williams, J.C. Risk, T. C. Gore, D. R. Shannon, J. D. Brown, Hannah Burgin.	10,000	.....
Eminence College	Eminence, Ky	1858	2890	205	S. G. Mullins, W. S. Giltner	30,000	.....
Christian College	Monmouth, Oregon	1859	.....	250	L. L. Rowland, T. F. Campbell	20,000	20,000
Hesperian College	Woodland, California	1862	.....	140	J. M. Martin, B. H. Smith	30,000	50,000
Female Orphan School,	Camden, Missouri	1869	.....	100	R. A. Broadhurst, W. A. Bohart	20,000	20,000
Hamilton College	Lexington, Ky	1869	800	70	R. Graham, H. Turner, T. J. Patterson	80,000	.....
Woodland College	Independence, Mo	1869	720	81	W. A. Buckner, F. W. Allen	20,000	.....
Add Ran College	Thorp's Springs, Tex	1872	300	150	Addison Clark	8,000	.....
Bedford College	Bedford, Ind	1872	550	160	J. M. Mathes	17,000	.....
Christian College	Santa Rosa, Cal	1872	283	148	Alex. Johnson, J. W. Butler, J. M. Martin,	25,000	.....
Columbia Christian College	Columbia, Ky	1873	260	75	W. K. Azbill	10,000	.....
Bonham Christian College	Bonham, Texas	1873	250	150	Charles Carlton	10,000	.....